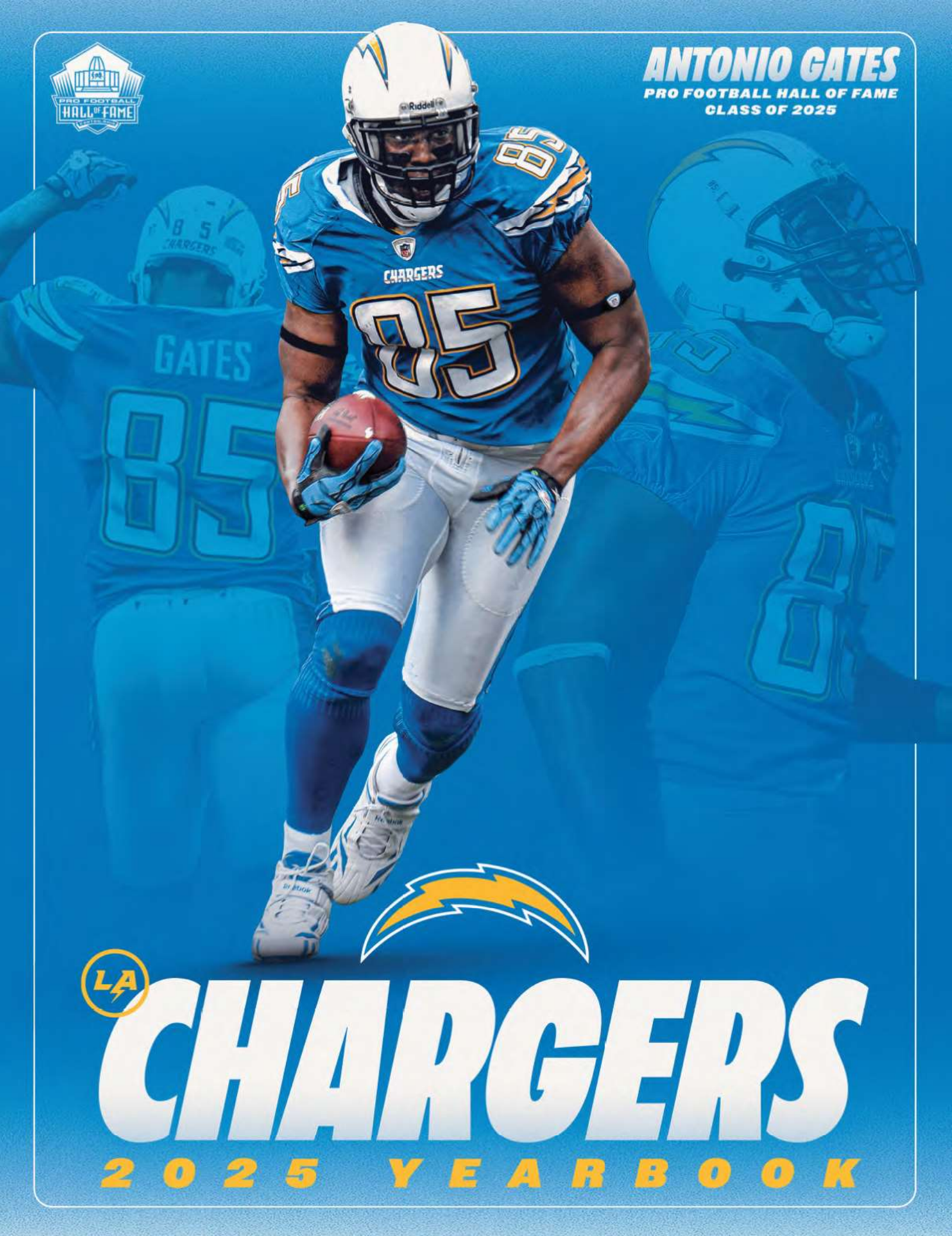
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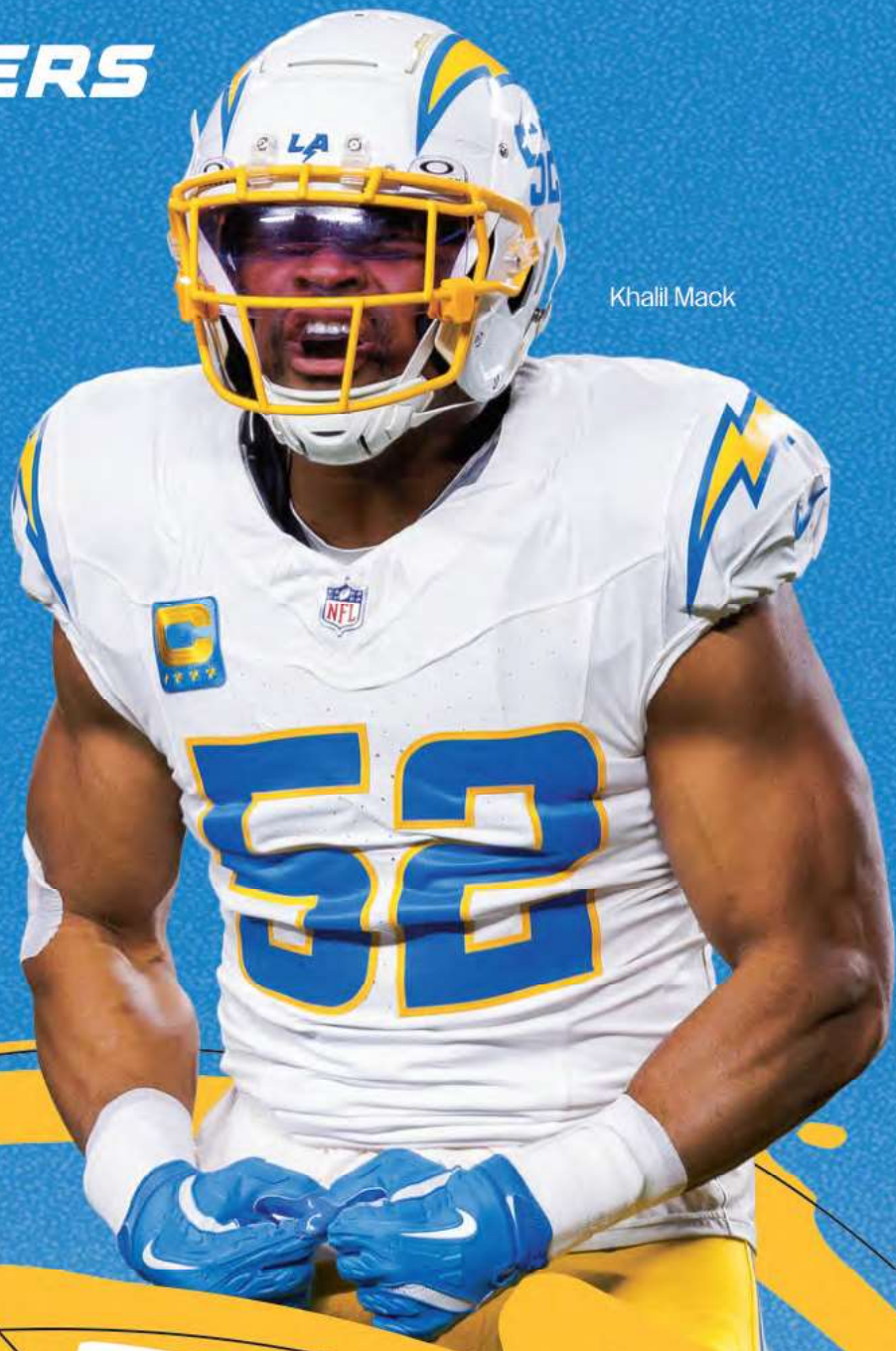

Khalil Mack

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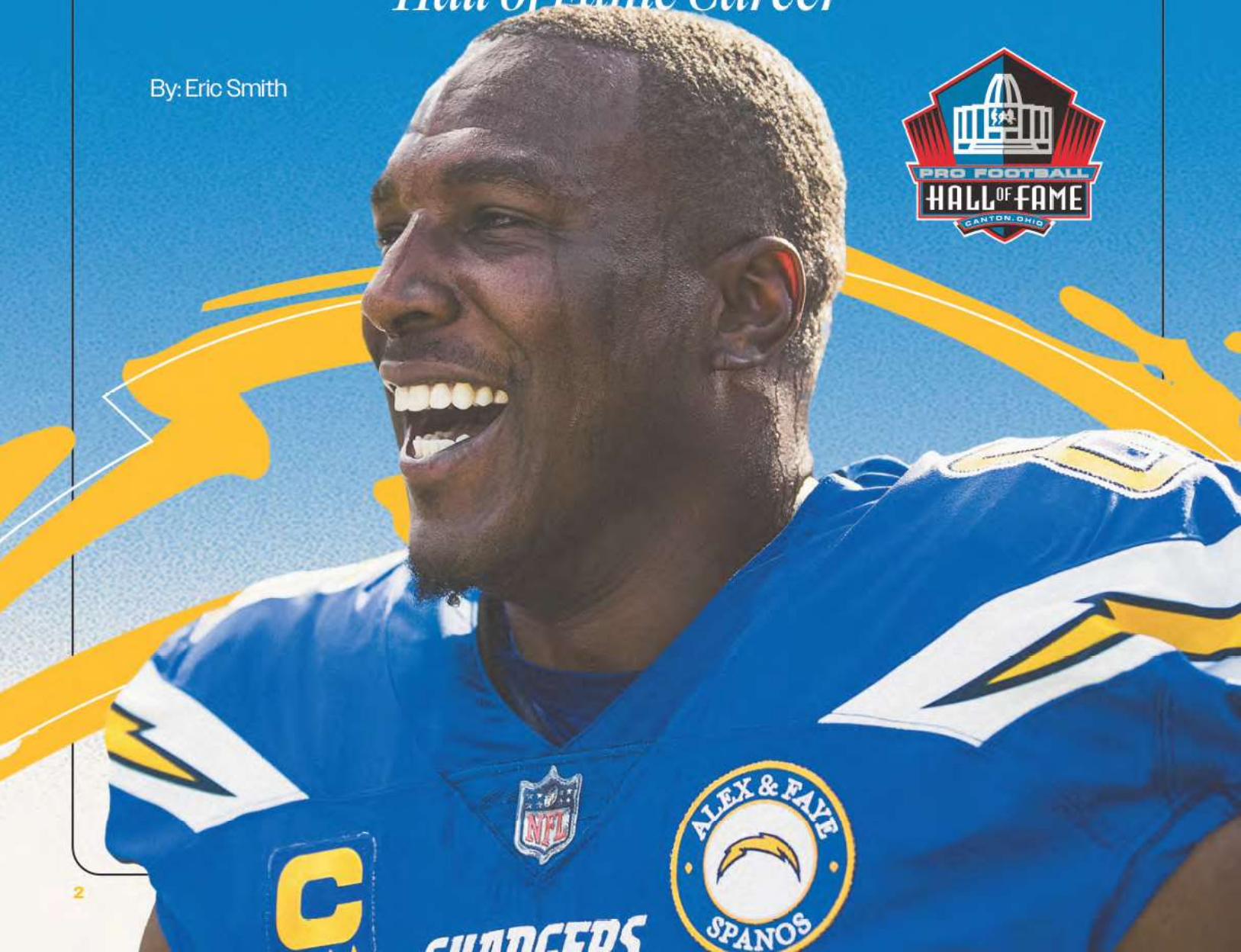
The Inside Story of

ANTONIO GATES'

Hall of Fame Career

By: Eric Smith



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ANTONIO GATES' MOMENT WAS MAGICAL

The legendary Chargers tight end was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in August, with the four-man Class of 2025 bumping the total number of inductees to 382.

But Gates' path to Canton, Ohio might be the most unlikely of anyone.

He became just the 23rd undrafted free agent to have his bust immortalized in the Hall and was the first player in the Hall of Fame to have never played a down of college football.

Gates' NFL resumé is Hall of Fame worthy, of course. No tight end in history can match his 116 career touchdown catches.

Not to mention his 955 receptions and 11,841 receiving yards, both of which rank fourth all-time among players at his position.

But the journey? The story of how Gates went from college to the Chargers to Canton?

Gates himself almost doesn't believe it.

"It's like I'm telling a fiction story," Gates said. "To tell somebody they can come to the NFL and not play college football but then make the team ... and then start ... and then make the Pro Bowl and be All-Pro your second year ... and then be the all-time touchdown leader ...

"It's not even a story you can make up. The chances? The odds? They're crazy," Gates added.

Here is the inside story of his Hall of Fame career.

HOOP DREAMS

Gates was a dominant basketball player from Day 1 at Detroit's Central High School, the kind of top-rated recruit that drew attention from around the country.

Gates, who played two years of varsity football, wanted to go to Michigan State.

"Nick Saban recruited me out of high school, but so did Tom Izzo," Gates said, referring to two legendary coaches in their respective sports.

He enrolled with the Spartans but eventually ended up at Eastern Michigan and then College of the Sequoias, a junior college in California.

Stan Heath, who had recruited Gates to Michigan State as an assistant basketball coach, had since become the head coach at Kent State.

Gates was sold, even if it meant his third school in three years.

He made an immediate impact by helping 10th-seeded Golden Flashes make an improbable run to the Elite Eight in the NCAA Tournament.

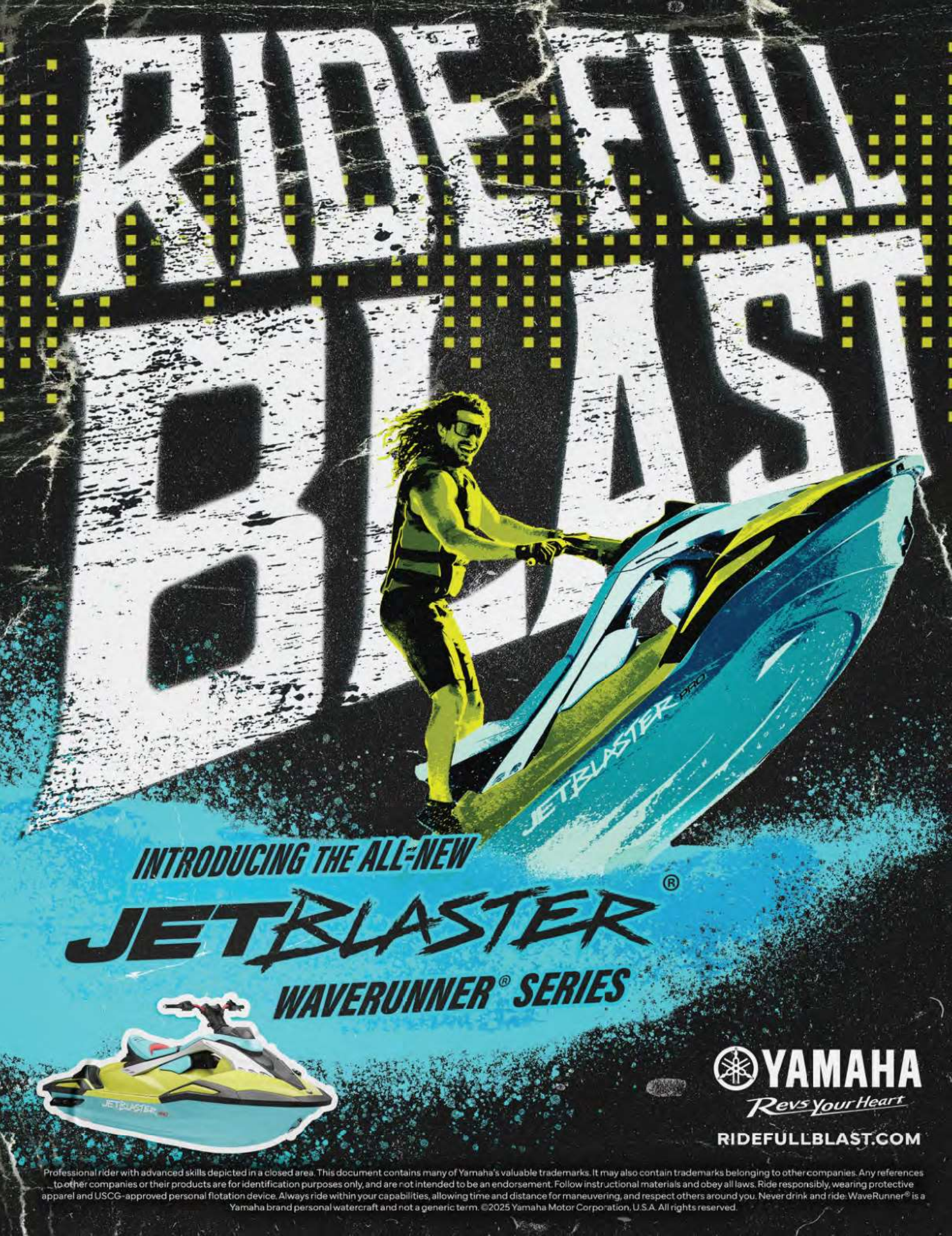
It seemed like he was on track for the NBA.

"We were so good in basketball, in my mind I was going pro," Gates said. "I was dominating, we went to the Elite Eight and I had averaged about 20 points in the tournament."

Gates returned for his senior season at Kent State as the team's top player. Heath, however, had jumped to Arkansas. The team couldn't replicate a 30-win season from the year before and missed the NCAA Tournament.

Football, meanwhile, continued to lurk in the background.

Dean Pees had helped recruit Gates to Michigan State a few years earlier as the Spartans' defensive coordinator. Now Kent State's head football coach, he kept pressing the 6-foot-4,



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255-pound Gates to try out the gridiron.

Gates now admits he thought about it. With Joshua Cribbs at quarterback and James Harrison on defense, the Golden Flashes had NFL-level talent on the roster.

And, according to Gates, Pees was ready to roll out the red carpet and modify his schedule so he didn't have to endure grueling camp practices.

He still didn't bite.

"I was in a space where there was unknown," Gates said. "I didn't want to just be a part of something when I was everything on the court."

Gates' future on the hardwood, however, would soon begin to waver.

FOOTBALL COMES CALLING

Shortly after Gates' senior basketball season at Kent State, he turned his focus to the 2003 NBA Draft.

The vibe from teams, Gates said, was mixed. It seemed as if nobody could figure out where to slot him.

Some teams wanted him to slim down and drop more than 30 pounds.

"I could not lose any weight, dude," Gates said with a laugh. "I was 255 and couldn't lose any weight."

Others put him through odd drills and brought up the subject of him changing positions.

"He was a man without a position in basketball," said Tim Brewster, the Chargers tight ends coach from 2002-2004.

Gates, who had devoted his entire life to hoops, felt lost. And he was ready to perhaps give this football thing a try.

"It was kind of like prom, right? You want to go with this person, but another person wants to go with you," Gates explained. "I wanted to go with basketball, but [football] is who wanted to go with me.

"Subconsciously, I remember telling myself that I really couldn't do anything wrong with football," Gates added. "My height [for football] was great. My weight was great. Speed, reaction, everything was great."

Brewster, who was entering his second season as the Bolts tight end coach, had been tipped off about Gates' incredible athletic ability.

Brewster watched Gates' basketball tape from his junior season against blue-blood programs in Kentucky and Indiana.

Gates had scored 22 points in each game. Brewster immediately saw the potential.

"99 percent of the time in those situations, it's probably not real good," Brewster explained. "But I evaluated the tape, and he had a football body.

"His trunk from the lower half down was just monstrous," Brewster added. "And the way he cleared people playing basketball and high- pointed the ball, he was different that way."

Brewster had been at Texas before joining the Bolts. And he leapt for the NFL after helping recruit quarterback Vince Young to the Longhorns.

Brewster used the same approach with Gates, only now he was trying to convince him to truly give football a chance. Especially because the sport was always somewhere out there in the back of his mind.

"It constantly came around. No matter what I did on the court people would say, 'You should play football.' It's kind of like now," Gates said with a loud laugh.

"No matter what I did in football," Gates added, "people love to say, 'Well, he used to play basketball.' That's all I hear now. I'm going into the Hall of Fame and it's like, 'You know he was basketball guy?!'"

At the time, Gates was juggling a hectic schedule that included both NBA and NFL workouts.

"I had an NBA workout on Tuesday and then the Chargers on Friday," Gates said. "It was the craziest thing ever."

Oh yeah, about that workout.

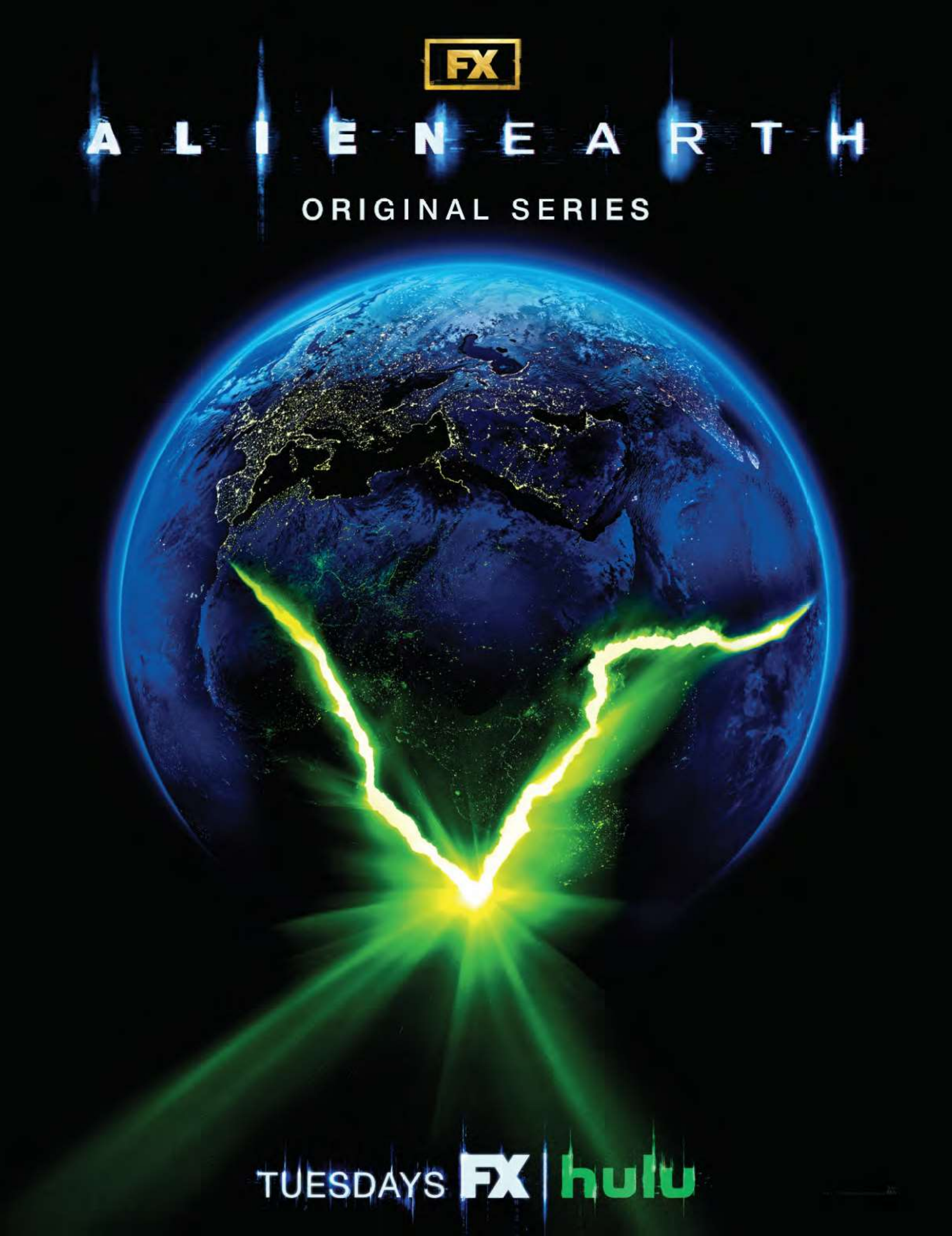
Kent State had organized a Pro Day of sorts for Gates.

Brewster, who was locked in on Gates by now, was the only NFL tight end coach to show up.

A few hours later, he was sold for good.

"There were only a couple people left but I had seen everything I'd needed to see. This guy right here was legit," Brewster said.

Gates added: "The Chargers came by themselves. But then word got around."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Hell yeah it did.

Kent State then organized a second workout for Gates to show off for NFL teams.

The problem?

Gates, who was still training for the NBA Draft, had tweaked his knee at the Portsmouth Invitational Tournament, the annual pre-NBA combine showcase for college seniors.

And when that second workout came around?

"I bombed," Gates said. "Stunk it up ... I was only a 60-percent version of what I could do."

You can bet that Brewster wasn't that mad about the performance.

"I didn't want him working out again," Brewster chuckled. "At that point, I knew what I had. We could only screw it up."

Gates recalled a similar story.

"When I came for the second workout and all these scouts and teams were there, I couldn't run like I did the first time," Gates said. "But Brewster told me, 'I've seen you. Just do what you can do.'

"I'm trying to do stuff and move around and teams are like, 'Why did we come to see this guy? This guy ain't that good.' But Brewster saw me the time I wasn't hurt," Gates added.

By April, Gates was sold on the NFL. And Brewster was sold on Gates.

"I go to the [second] workout and fly back to San Diego," Brewster said. "But [former Chargers Head Coach] Marty Schottenheimer tells me, 'Brew, we are not using a draft pick on a guy that didn't play college football.' I said, 'Marty, this guy right here is different.'

"I was hoping for a seventh-round pick or some type of supplemental deal," Brewster continued. "Marty said that if he made it through the draft then he would turn me loose on him."

"I recruited [Gates] like I did Vince Young. I recruited Antonio, recruited his family," Brewster added. "So, when the draft was over, there was no doubt where he was going."

Now Brewster just had to get Gates on the Chargers, something that took some convincing within the organization. Heck, it wasn't like they had college football tape to evaluate.

"I can very specifically remember one of our scouts reading an evaluation of him that was based purely off of his basketball tape," said Chargers President of Football Operations John Spanos, who was a scout back then.

"I can remember talking about the way he rebounds the ball and various things like that," Spanos added. "For me, it was very unique to hear that type of report and not knowing much at the time. Then of course, we were able add him after the draft."

Sure enough, Brewster and the Bolts faxed Gates a contract immediately at the conclusion of the 2003 NFL Draft.

Gates got other offers, too. But he knew where he was headed despite only a meager $2,000 signing bonus.

"I'm sure that's the cheapest they've ever gave somebody," said Gates, who would later be the highest-paid tight end in the league.

"But Tim Brewster was adamant," Gates added. "He was like, 'This guy is it!' But they sent me a contract instantly right after the draft. Instantly. I got that fax right away."

Gates was headed to the NFL.

A HALL OF FAMER

The rest, as they say, is history.

Gates worked and worked and worked upon arriving in San Diego.

He made the team out of camp and progressed throughout his rookie season, tallying 24 catches for 389 yards and two scores.

Gates' career took off like a rocket in 2004, his second season in the league.

He caught 81 passes for 964 yards and 13 touchdowns, the latter of which then set a record for single-season scores by a tight end.

Gates earned the first of three straight First-Team All-Pro selections, as well as the first of eight consecutive Pro Bowl honors.

As the season accrued, Gates established himself as the league's best tight end, all while revolutionizing the position along the way.

The career stats are mind boggling, with most of them ranking as the best ever for any tight end ever.

We're talking about 21 multi-touchdown games, eight seasons with eight-plus receiving touchdowns and 39 career touchdown receptions on third down.

Then there's Gates' prowess in the red zone, where he tallied 93 touchdown catches from the 20-yard line and in. For reference, those 93 scores would rank 14th all-time on their own ... and are one more than Rob Gronkowski had in his entire career.

It all added up to one of the most unique and wild journeys to Canton of all time.

"It was such an incredible sequence of things that transpired," Gates said. "I still think, 'How did I get here?'

"It's not like I planned this. It just happened," Gates added. "There's no way you can script it."

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CONTROLLING OWNER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Under the leadership of Dean Spanos, the Los Angeles Chargers continue to make bold moves that position the franchise for long-term success in the nation's second-largest media market. Guided by Spanos' strategic direction and expertise in the construction business, the organization opened The Bolt in July 2024 — the first dedicated NFL team training facility and headquarters ever constructed in Los Angeles. The Bolt and the team's iconic SoFi Stadium home, which sits just four miles from the 150,000 square-foot architectural masterpiece, places the Chargers squarely at the intersection of innovation, entertainment and professional sports.

In January 2024, Spanos, along with President of Football Operations John Spanos, oversaw the search that led to the Chargers' hiring of Jim Harbaugh as head coach, bringing the former Bolts quarterback home following a 15-0 season that culminated with a College Football Playoff National Championship as head coach for the University of Michigan. Spanos also hired one of the NFL's top talent evaluators as general manager in longtime Baltimore Ravens personnel executive Joe Hortiz. With these personnel moves, Spanos, who has led the team through numerous franchise records and victories including the team's most recent playoff berth in 2024, is looking to return the Bolts to an era of dominance they enjoyed not long ago. During an 11-season run from 2004-14, the Chargers won 113 games including four playoff victories and five AFC West championships (2004, 2006-09). Only three teams in the NFL won more games during that span.

Named President of the Chargers in early 1994 — the same year the team culminated its most memorable season with an appearance in Super Bowl XXIX — Dean, along with his father Alex Spanos, also secured Super Bowl XXXII (1998) and Super Bowl XXXVII (2003) for their community, with each event netting in excess of $300 million for the local economy.

In 2015, Spanos handed over the reins of day-to-day leadership to sons A.G. and John. Eldest son A.G. Spanos now serves as President of Business Operations while John Spanos heads up the other side of the business as President of Football Operations.

Dean's leadership is also present throughout the National Football League. As a member of the NFL's Management Council Executive Committee (CEC), he played an integral role in negotiating the NFL's current labor agreement. Spanos also sits on the NFL's Business Ventures Committee — having served as Chairman in 2015 — which has oversight regarding various league commercial activities, including consumer products, sponsorship, events, marketing and new business initiatives. In addition to his current committee work, Spanos also owns previous committee time that includes membership on the NFL's International and Legislative Committees.

Aside from football, Spanos also serves as CEO of the A.G. Spanos Companies, and along with his brother, Michael, oversees all construction operations nationwide.

TRADITION OF GIVING

The Spanos family has a multi-generation commitment to community involvement and is recognized both as one of the NFL's most philanthropic families as well as one of Southern California's most active and caring contributors to local causes. Their financial contributions of more than $15 million and their emotional support for youth, sports, education and our brave men and women in uniform have been a hallmark of their team ownership and legacy. Spanos was honored in June 2022 by the Loukoumi Make A Difference Foundation with its Inspiration Award for his commitment to encouraging youth and young adults to serve their communities and follow their career dreams.

In March of 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Spanos directed an immediate donation of $250,000 to the LA Food Bank to help prepare for what he knew would be a tremendous increase in need. He also directed

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additional, significant donations to support other regional Food Banks, first responders, the American Red Cross and other non-profits working throughout Southern California to assist people struggling through the pandemic. The Chargers then partnered with KCBS-TV in Los Angeles and iHeart Radio to co-host a fundraiser that ultimately netted more than $1.6 million in donations for LAUSD students most in need, providing them with free meals, supplies and much-needed technology to help maintain their studies from home.

As 2020 continued and issues surrounding systemic racism sparked national outrage and new types of dialogue, Spanos led the team through tough internal conversations, which resulted in a new partnership with Liberty Hill Foundation to create a Social Justice Mentoring Initiative for the team's players and staff and system-impacted youth. Under his leadership, the Chargers and the Chargers Impact Fund also made a five-year financial commitment to help launch the Alliance — an unprecedented partnership of all 11 sport teams in the LA region who are coming together to level the playing field through sport by providing access and opportunities to youth from consistently under-resourced communities.

In April 2019, thanks to the generosity of Spanos and the Chargers organization, the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Los Angeles opened their newly renovated multi-sport field and teen center with a press conference and ribbon-cutting hosted by Spanos. In June of 2018, Spanos and the Chargers announced a three-year, $1.2 million commitment to the Summer Night Lights program — helping to expand sports programming across all 32 park locations — including uniforms for participants, referees and increased access to sports clinics. In 2018 Spanos also served as the honorary chair of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's annual 2018 Pacific Youth of the Year Gala.

The generosity of the Spanos family reaches throughout California and has often extended into other states when needs have arisen. When wildfires struck Los Angeles, Ventura and San Diego Counties in December 2017, the Spanos family stepped up with a $250,000 donation to the American Red Cross — less than three months after committing $500,000 to Hurricane Harvey relief efforts and hosting a food and supply drive in Los Angeles for victims in flood-ravaged areas of Houston, Texas. When wildfires ravaged San Diego County in 2003, and again in 2007, the family made identical $1 million donations to aid affected families and the recovery effort.

Known for his generous backing of youth and high school football, Spanos and the Chargers were honored by National Pop Warner with its prestigious NFL Team of the Year Award in 2015 — a recognition of the team's outstanding support for youth football and cheer at all levels. The Chargers, who were also honored in 2007, were the first team in the NFL team to be so honored twice.

In 2014, the A.G. Spanos Heart and Vascular Center at Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento opened thanks to a lead gift of $15 million from the family, the largest gift Mercy General had ever received. In speaking at the opening, Dean said the family's commitment to Mercy General Hospital was to ensure that no one from the region would ever be turned away from proper care for lack of space or the kind of critical care they needed.

Also in 2014, Spanos pledged $500,000 to the University of California-San Diego to upgrade and expand the existing Alex G. Spanos Training Facility, which was then renamed and opened as the Alex G. Spanos Athletic Performance Center. UCSD is the Chargers' former training camp home, and this gift raised the value of the family's support of the institution to more than $1.6 million.

In 1995, the Spanos family took their commitment to the community a step further by creating The Chargers Community Foundation, now known as the Los Angeles Chargers Impact Fund. Since its inception, the Fund has provided nearly $13 million to support a wide range of services and programs directly benefiting children and families. In 1999, Dean Spanos created the Fund's largest ongoing program, Chargers Champions, which has provided over $6 million in direct assistance to schools, teachers, and students. The program provides grants to improve fitness, nutrition and athletic programs on school campuses.

Spanos has also been a long-time contributor to many other important charities and organizations working to improve the lives of children and families, including: the Make-A-Wish Foundation; American Cancer Society; Susan G. Komen; Girl Scouts; Special Olympics of Southern California; the Salvation Army; and Huntington's Disease Society.

COMMUNITY HONORS

In appreciation of their ongoing generosity, Dean and Susie Spanos have often been the recipients of numerous accolades. This coming fall, the Los Angeles Chargers Impact Fund will be inducted into the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Los Angeles Hall of Fame for their ongoing dedication, support and service to local youth through financial investment and community outreach programs. Additionally, the Chargers were honored in 2024 with the Community Inspiration Award from Luskin Orthapaedic Institute. In 2018, the family and the Chargers were honored as Red Cross LA's Humanitarian Organization of the Year and presented with the Mayor's Award from the Association of Corporate Growth (ACG) Los Angeles — both in recognition of the impact they have made in the greater Los Angeles community. The Spanos family was also recognized with the Inaugural Carousel Spirit Award from the Festival of Children Foundation in Orange County. In 2021, Dean and Susie were honored with the Ambassador of Hope Award from Make-A-Wish Orange

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County and the Inland Empire, celebrating more than 20 years of partnership and support from the Spanos family and Chargers organization. In January 2023, Spanos was inducted into the National Football Foundation Leadership Hall of Fame at YouTube Theater in SoFi Stadium.

Among other honors received over the years, the Association of Fundraising Professionals recognized Spanos and the Chargers as San Diego's Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation; the Salvation Army named Dean and Susie their Most Valuable Philanthropists; they received the Huntington's Disease Society of America's top national award — the Harold Leventhal Community Service Award and national Pop Warner's top honor, The Warner Award was bestowed on Spanos for his ongoing commitment to youth football and the Little Scholars education initiative. The San Diego Business Journal presented the family with their Outstanding Community Service Award for family-owned businesses; Dean and Susie received the Herb Klein Spirit of San Diego Award from the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce — their highest community honor and the Rotary Club of San Diego's prestigious Heilbron Award was presented in recognition of the team's "pay it forward spirit — giving not only of itself but also its professional expertise to advance the well-being and success of others in the community."

In 2006, President George W. Bush appointed Spanos to the Board of Trustees for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Spanos has the unique distinction of being a second-generation recipient of the renowned Ellis Island Medal of Honor, received 16 years after his father was similarly honored.

BUSINESSMAN AND FAMILY MAN

Dean Alexander Spanos was born in Stockton, Calif. He earned varsity letters in football and golf at Lincoln High School and later received Lincoln High School's Hall of Fame Award, which honors alumni whose contributions and accomplishments are representative of the school. Dean was recognized for his achievements in the areas of business as well as athletics.

Spanos continued his golfing career at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, graduating in 1972 with a degree in business administration. He maintains close ties with his alma mater, having served as a regent at the university. An avid golfer post-college, Dean has been on the winning team in five Pro-Am tournaments, including back-to-back wins in 1990 at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic and the AT&T National Pro-Am at Pebble Beach with partner Hubert Green. He successfully defended his title at the Hope Classic the following year. Spanos' first win came with Green at the 1985 Bing Crosby Pro-Am at Pebble Beach, where he was awarded the "Most Valuable Amateur" trophy for supplying the most help to his professional partner.

Susie Spanos is a spokeswoman for the NFL's annual A Crucial Catch cancer screening campaign and is a breast cancer survivor herself. She was honored as a "Woman of Dedication" by the Salvation Army and was also named the Woman of the Year by the San Diego Leukemia Society for her philanthropic work in the community. As a long-time arts patron, Susie is a member of the Angels of the Arts group for the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, promoting excellence in the performing arts through cultural and social activities. She currently also serves on the Board of the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, a nonprofit studio that furthers the art of dance with a focus on disenfranchised Black and Latino communities.

In addition to leading the Playmakers, comprised of significant others of Chargers football players, coaches and football operations staff, Susie also currently serves as a Board member for the NFL Foundation overseeing the millions of dollars provided by the Foundation into

communities across the country. Most recently, as the COVID-19 pandemic raged throughout Southern California, Susie brought together friends and Chargers' talent to host a virtual cooking fundraiser to raise much-needed funds for the Midnight Mission's HomeLight Facility, serving families experiencing homelessness in Inglewood, Calif.

Over the years, Susie has also supported numerous other charitable organizations including the San Diego Women's Foundation, the Salvation Army and Las Patronas. Susie was also a driving force in supporting and growing the San Diego Blood Bank's umbilical cord blood program and helping the Chargers' annual blood drive become one of the most successful in the nation.

Dean and Susie have two sons, A.G. and John, five grandsons and a granddaughter.

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OWNER AND VICE CHAIRMAN

Michael A. Spanos is Owner and Vice Chairman of the Los Angeles Chargers, assisting in financial and management matters pertaining to the team. Michael joins his brother — Controlling Owner and Chairman of the Board Dean Spanos — in steering the direction of the organization.

As president of the A.G. Spanos Companies, Michael is responsible for the company's planning and development activities around the country. He monitors and oversees the office divisions in states where the company builds and develops. His responsibilities also extend to the areas of property management, land acquisition and preparation of all plans for future direction, growth and construction of the company's multi-family communities and land development activities. From the company headquarters in Stockton, Michael regularly travels across the country to monitor and manage building projects.

Born in Stockton, Calif., he attended Lincoln High School and graduated from the University of the Pacific with a bachelor's degree in business administration. In 1989, Michael was appointed to the Board of Regents at the University of the Pacific, where he served for five years. Michael continues to contribute both his time and resources to the development and support of charitable projects involving youth sports and education. He and his wife, Helen, have five children and reside in Stockton.

alexis SPANOS RUHL

OWNER AND SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE IMPACT FUND

Alexis Spanos Ruhl has seen first-hand the importance of personal community engagement, whether it be by watching her parent's life-long commitment to philanthropy or through her own charitable endeavors over the past several decades.

As a Board Member for A.G. Spanos Companies, Alexis has taken her passion for service, evolved it into a vital role within the family business and now acts as the primary liaison between the company and the numerous non-profits currently supported by the organization.

Committed to continuing her parent's philanthropic legacy via all avenues, Alexis also plays an active role in shaping the direction and focus of the Los Angeles Chargers Impact Fund. A 501c3 nonprofit foundation founded by her parents, Alex and Faye, in 1995, the Impact Fund strives to continues their legacy of giving through two "impact" areas — Youth Empowerment and Community Advancement.

Alexis also serves in a critical advisory role for the Chargers' Animal Welfare platform, leading the team's community efforts to renovate animal shelters, support service dog training and create additional pet adoption opportunities in Los Angeles. Up North, the San Francisco SPCA's Heart of Gold Society has recognized Alexis for her outstanding leadership in fundraising while she has twice been awarded the "Golden Paw Award" by The Cool Cats and Barking Dogs for her outstanding fundraising efforts on behalf of the Stockton Animal Shelter. Additionally, Alexis has also been recognized by the City of Stockton for her annual efforts to raise critical dollars to benefit Stockton's animal services.

A.G. SPANOS

PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Named President of Business Operations for the Chargers in May 2015, A.G. Spanos is responsible for all day-to-day operations, including marketing, sales, communications, digital media and community relations. He also represents the organization at NFL and ownership meetings.

Previously, Spanos served as Executive Vice President — Chief Executive Officer from 2011-15, Executive Vice President — Executive Officer from 2008-10, and Director of Marketing Programs and Business Development from 2003-07.

Spanos has guided the Chargers organization through numerous changes over the past several years, notably the team's significant investment in digital media and subsequent emergence as a best-in-class, nationally recognized content creator. He collaborated closely with the NFL and Nike on the team's brand relaunch and widely acclaimed uniform redesign, and most recently led the process for two new alternate uniforms unveiled for the 2025 season — merging innovation with the franchise's iconic identity. Spanos also played a key role in the team's successful transition to SoFi Stadium ahead of the 2020 season.

In July 2024, the organization opened The Bolt, the first dedicated NFL team training facility and headquarters ever constructed in Los Angeles. Spanos worked closely with Chief of Staff Fred Maas on securing the 14-acre site, in El Segundo, Calif., which sits less than four miles from SoFi Stadium, LAX and popular South Bay beaches. The Bolt's extraordinary design, technological prowess, prime location and dynamic event space place the building squarely at the intersection of entertainment and professional sports. It's ability to serve as a destination for television and commercial shoots as well as campaign photoshoots, combined with a third-floor private, members-only club, ensure that The Bolt will be a prime asset in the Chargers' business portfolio. Prior to The Bolt, Spanos led the organization's efforts to secure space for training camp and a practice facility in Costa Mesa during the 2017 offseason.

Throughout these transitions, Spanos has ensured that making a positive impact in the community has remained constant. In 2018 alone, the Chargers were honored as Red Cross LA's Humanitarian Organization of the Year and presented with the Mayor's Award from the Association of Corporate Growth (ACG) Los Angeles — both in recognition of the impact they have made in the greater Los Angeles community. In 2020, The Chargers Community Foundation — established by the Spanos family in 1995 — was renamed The Los Angeles Chargers Impact Fund. To date, the entity has provided nearly $13 million to support a wide range of services and programs directly benefiting children and families. Spanos currently serves as President of the Board for the Impact Fund.

In 2020, he participated in the Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce's State of the City alongside Mayor James T. Butts while in 2018, Spanos accepted the James T. Butts Award from the same Chamber of Commerce in honor of his grandfather and Spanos patriarch, the late Alex Spanos. The recognition highlighted Alex Spanos' business leadership and commitment to the community.

Spanos played football as a freshman at Tufts University in Medford, Mass., before returning to California to continue his education at the University of Southern California, where he earned a bachelor's degree in marketing from the Marshall School of Business. In addition to his work with the Chargers, Spanos is currently a board member of the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission and the Los Angeles Sports Council & Sports Council Foundation. In 2023, he was inaugurated as the Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in a special ceremony at an event on the field of SoFi Stadium and is currently the Immediate Past Chair of the Chamber.

Spanos is the eldest son of Owner and Chairman of the Board Dean Spanos and his wife, Susie. A member of YPO-Los Angeles and Alder in Orange County, he and his wife, Kamri, reside in Laguna Beach with their four sons.

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john SPANOS

PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL OPERATIONS

John Spanos was named President of Football Operations for the Chargers in May 2015 and oversees all football-related functions of the team, including player personnel, coaching, player finance and the salary cap, medical, equipment, video, player engagement and security.

The 2025 season will mark Spanos' 30th year in the NFL and his 27th with the team. Spanos began working for the Chargers in 1995, originally in the football operations department as a seasonal assistant. He assisted the department for five straight summers, assisting with contract negotiations and helping manage the salary cap for the final three.

In the summer of 2001, Spanos worked in New York at the NFL Office's Management Council department — which oversees and enforces the collective bargaining agreement. He returned the following year to help in the same capacity for the 2002 season before returning to California. In 2008, he was among a select list of NFL executives invited to participate in the NFL's Executive Education Program at the Stanford Business School in Palo Alto, Calif.

He began working full-time as a scout for the Chargers in 2003. Spanos worked his way up through the organization, including positions as a pro and college scout (2003-05), assistant director of college scouting (2006-07), director of college scouting (2008-12) and executive vice president of football operations (2013-14). Throughout his time with the club, Spanos has continued to work closely with Executive Vice President of Football Administration/Player Finance Ed McGuire to manage the salary cap and retain some of the team's top players.

Spanos' ascension within the organization coincided with one of the most successful eras in franchise history. From 2004-09, the Chargers won 67 regular-season games, good for the third-most in the NFL over that span. The team also won three playoff games during that stretch, reaching 70 total wins from 2004-09, which was fourth-most in the league. The Chargers won the AFC West five times from 2004-09 and advanced to the AFC Championship Game in 2007.

Named Executive Vice President of Football Operations in 2013, Spanos helped assemble a squad in 2018 that tied for the AFC's best record at 12-4 and reached the divisional round of the playoffs following a wild card victory at Baltimore. Most recently this offseason, Spanos led the search that resulted in the hires of Joe Hortiz as general manager and Jim Harbaugh as head coach, bringing the former Chargers quarterback back into the fold after he led Michigan to a 15-0 record and National Championship. In the inaugural season with Hortiz and Harbaugh, the Bolts clinched a postseason berth after an 11-6 record.

Spanos has helped the Chargers acquire and retain some of the most prolific talent in football since 2003, as the team had 34 players make a combined 86 Pro Bowls over that span — including 17 that have been named to 40 all-star games since 2013. In addition to acquiring star players, four players in the last 12 drafts went on to earn Rookie of the Year honors.

Spanos serves as the Chairman of the Board for the National Invitational Camp, which oversees the running of the annual NFL Scouting Combine. He is also a trustee for the NFL Player Benefit Board and a co-chair on the NFL's Future of Football Advisory Committee. He formerly served as the Chairman of the Board for National Football Scouting and is an Honorary Member of the University of California-San Diego (UCSD) Athletic Board. In addition to his scouting board roles, Spanos is also a board member for the Los Angeles Chargers Impact Fund.

In June 2010, Spanos was named one of the "Top 40 Under 40" Greek-Americans by Greek America Magazine. The acknowledgment came in recognition of his achievements in both business and community leadership. He often represents the organization at various team and community events, notably speaking at the kickoff event for 2018 Summer Night Lights alongside Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Spanos was born in Stockton, Calif. He attended The Bishop's School in La Jolla, Calif., where he lettered in football as a wide receiver and defensive back. He also lettered in golf and basketball and was a member of three CIF championship teams. After Bishop's, Spanos attended Wake Forest University, graduating with a degree in business.

John and his wife, Jodie, have two children.

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jeanne m. BONK

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT-CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

One of the Chargers' longest-tenured executives, as well as one of the highest-ranking female executives in the National Football League, Jeanne Bonk currently serves as Executive Vice President — Chief Operating Officer for the Bolts. She held Chief Financial Officer responsibilities in addition to her COO assignments from May 2016 until December 2022.

Bonk originally joined the Chargers in 1991 as Chief Financial Officer. In 1994, she was promoted to Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, a position she retained for seven years. In 2000, Bonk was named Vice President — Chief Financial Officer and, in 2005, was promoted to Executive Vice President — Chief Financial Officer.

Bonk's expertise and leadership have been critical to the ongoing success of the organization in many areas. Paramount among her current duties, she actively manages the team's involvement with SoFi Stadium and Hollywood Park.

In March 2021, Bonk was recognized as a 'Champion of Change,' by the Inglewood Airport Area Chamber of Commerce at the Women Business Leaders Luncheon. She was also nominated by the Orange County Business Journal for the 2019 Women in Business Award. Bonk has been a presenter and panelist at numerous speaking engagements regarding women in leadership, including at the Chargers Business Alliance in February 2019 and the Chargers & Rams Women in Sports & Events in August 2020.

A native of Covina, Calif., Bonk began her professional career in 1983 with the international accounting firm, Price Waterhouse. She worked at Price Waterhouse for eight years, leaving as a senior audit manager to join the Chargers in 1991.

Bonk attended Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, Calif., before earning a bachelor's degree in business administration with emphasis in accounting and graduating with honors from the University of San Diego in 1983. She is both a Certified Public Accountant and Chartered Global Management Accountant. Bonk was nominated — and subsequently named a finalist — for the City of San Diego's Chief Financial Officer of the Year Award in 2009 and was also inducted into the Mater Dei High School Ring of Honor in 2011.

Bonk is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, the California Society of CPAs and is also currently a member of the NFL Owners' Audit Committee. She previously sat on the San Diego Humane Society's Audit Committee and the San Diego Diocesan Finance Council. In addition, she previously chaired the Finance Committee of Cathedral Catholic High School for six years.

Bonk is married to her husband, Jim.

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ed MCGUIRE

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF FOOTBALL ADMINISTRATION/PLAYER FINANCE

Now in his 38th NFL season and 28th with the Chargers, Ed McGuire has worked his way up the football operations staff with the Chargers since joining the team in 1998. Named Executive Vice President of Football Administration/Player Finance in January 2013, McGuire serves as the club's chief negotiator and manages the salary cap while overseeing compliance of NFL and Collective Bargaining Agreement rules. He has been a member of the NFL Player Insurance Trust since 2002.

McGuire's previous roles with the Chargers include Coordinator of Football Operations (1998-00), Vice President of Football Operations (2000-06), Executive Vice President of Football Operations (2007) and Executive Vice President of Football Operations — Assistant General Manager (2008-12).

Throughout his tenure with the Chargers, McGuire has negotiated numerous long-term contracts and contract extensions. In 2004, he negotiated an eight-year contract extension for Hall of Fame running back LaDainian Tomlinson, who earned NFL MVP honors in 2006 and led the league in rushing in back-to-back seasons (2006-07) during the contract. At the time, the deal was the largest contract signed by a running back in NFL history. McGuire also negotiated Justin Herbert's multi-year extension, securing the Bolts' record-setting, franchise quarterback as he entered his fourth pro season. At the time, Herbert's deal was the largest contract in NFL history in terms of average annual salary. Most recently, McGuire negotiated Rashawn Slater's multi-year extension, locking in the franchise left tackle for the foreseeable future.

In addition to Herbert, McGuire negotiated new contracts and extensions for several key players over the last few years, locking up some of the team's best players for the foreseeable future, including standouts Derwin James Jr., Khalil Mack and Cameron Dicker.

McGuire joined the Chargers after serving as the Senior Manager of Labor Operations for the NFL's Management Council from 1996-98. He was the league's Manager of Player Personnel from 1991-96 and originally joined the NFL in 1987 as a Player Personnel Analyst. McGuire also worked in the Player Personnel department for the United States Football League from 1984-86.

During his tenure in the National Football League office, McGuire became a leading expert on the NFL's salary cap and Collective Bargaining Agreement, which was created in 1993 between the NFL and the NFL Players Association.

Born in Riverhead, N.Y., McGuire graduated with a degree in athletic administration in 1984 from St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y. He played football and baseball at Riverhead High. He recently was elected into the Suffolk County (N.Y.) Sports Hall of Fame.

McGuire and his wife, Jane, have two children — son, Kevin, and daughter, Shannon — and reside in Laguna Niguel, Calif.

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fred MAAS

CHIEF OF STAFF AND COUNSELOR

Fred Maas is Chief of Staff and Counselor for the Los Angeles Chargers, overseeing all business and legal functions, reporting to ownership.

Maas has overseen a number of significant projects since joining the organization in 2016, most notably identifying a site to build the Chargers permanent training facility and corporate headquarters. The seven-year process culminated in the summer of 2024 with the opening of The Bolt, the first dedicated NFL team training facility and headquarters ever constructed in Los Angeles. The El Segundo-based facility boasts expansive views of the LA Basin — including the Downtown skyline, Griffith Observatory and iconic Hollywood sign — and sits within four miles of LAX, popular South Bay beaches and SoFi Stadium. The Bolt's extraordinary design, technological prowess, prime location and dynamic event space place the building squarely at the intersection of entertainment and professional sports.

Maas also played a central role in overseeing the team's move into its SoFi Stadium home at the start of the 2020 season and was instrumental in helping the organization welcome fans to the venue in 2021 for the first time following the pandemic.

Maas previously served as the executive chairman of MRV Systems LLC, a manufacturer of marine robotic vehicles for the oceanographic and defense industries. Prior to his role at MRV, he was the Chairman and CEO of the San Diego Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC), which oversaw, on behalf of the city, all redevelopment activities for downtown San Diego.

Maas was a principal and served as President and CEO of Black Mountain Ranch, a 4,660-acre property that his partnership acquired in 1988. Then undeveloped land, Black Mountain Ranch is now home to several large-scale residential communities, including Santaluz and Del Sur.

In the 1980s and '90s, Maas served as a partner at Potomac Sports Properties, the exclusive developer of the PGA TOUR Inc. Earlier, Maas represented the TOUR on marketing, regulatory, legislative and tax matters.

Maas has served in a variety of capacities in national, state and local politics over the past 35 years, including stints with Senators Bob Dole and John McCain, Jack Kemp and Governor Mitch Daniels among others. Maas also served as a special advisor to Todd Properties of New Zealand and H.E. Stuart Beck, the late Palauan Ambassador to the United Nations. In 2017, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., appointed Maas as a Commissioner on the California Horse Racing Board.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., Maas graduated cum laude from Syracuse University's College of Law and Hobart College. Maas is admitted to the District of Columbia bar.

Maas has a daughter, Katherine Claire, who resides in New York City.

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joe HORTIZ

GENERAL MANAGER

28th NFL Season
2nd Season With Chargers

Joe Hortiz enters his second season as General Manager for the Los Angeles Chargers. He was hired as the 10th General Manager in franchise history, bringing his shrewd eye for talent and roster construction to the Bolts after most recently serving as the director of player personnel for the Baltimore Ravens from 2019-23 after holding a variety of roles while advancing through Baltimore's personnel department.

Hortiz immediately helped the Chargers return to the playoffs in 2024 with a roster that featured 33 players who joined the team prior to or during the season. His first draft class featured players who made in impact as rookies, headlined by selecting tackle Joe Alt at No. 5 overall. The class also showcased wide receiver Ladd McConkey in the second round and a pair of cornerbacks taken in the fifth round — Tarheeb Still and Cam Hart. Alt earned All-Rookie honors from the Professional Football Writers of America, while McConkey set franchise rookie records in receptions (82) and receiving yards (1,149). Still earned AFC Defensive Player of the Week recognition for his performance in Week 13, which saw him post two picks, including one he returned for a 61-yard touchdown that proved to be the winning score.

On top of his success in the draft, Hortiz fortified the roster through extensions, waiver claims and trades. Prior to the start of training camp in 2024, he extended kicker Cameron Dicker, who went on to earn back-to-back AFC Special Teams Player of the Week awards in Weeks 17 and 18. Hortiz also traded for defensive back Elijah Molden, who became a key contributor on defense and was extended this past offseason.

Hortiz, who helped build Baltimore's Super Bowl XLVII-winning roster, brought 26 seasons of NFL experience to Los Angeles, along with a track record of building complete teams through the draft and free agency. As one of the chief personnel evaluators for the Ravens from 2019-23, Hortiz helped the organization compile rosters to make the playoffs in four of those seasons and posted a 56-27 record in that span, including a league-best mark of 13-4 in 2023.

As Baltimore's director of player personnel, Hortiz helped run a personnel department that drafted five players that went on to earn Pro Bowl recognition. He was part of a staff that traded for linebacker Roquan Smith in 2022 and defensive end Calais Campbell in 2020, as well as signed key pieces like outside linebacker Jadeveon Clowney, wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., and guard Kevin Zeitler. In his first season as a director of player personnel in 2019, Hortiz helped compile a roster that posted a 14-2 record, the best in franchise history.

In 10 years (2009-18) as Baltimore's director of college scouting, Hortiz's eye for talent was on display, as he oversaw a process that ended up drafting 13 players to combine for 25 Pro Bowls and six Associated Press first-team All-Pro selections. Hortiz had a lasting impact on the organization from 2009-23 after his role expanded, as the Ravens drafted 18 Pro Bowlers and seven AP first-team All-Pros in that time. He helped bring in eventual five-time AP first-team All-Pro and six-time Pro Bowl kicker Justin Tucker as an undrafted free agent in 2012, as well as select some of the top players in the NFL in recent memory, capped by the 2018 draft class that included tight end Mark Andrews and quarterback Lamar Jackson, who earned league MVP honors in his second season.

Hortiz got his start with the Ravens as a personnel assistant in 1998, working in that role until he became an area scout for the team from 2001-05. He then became a national scout for three seasons (2006-08), with a focus on the eastern half of the country, helping the team select quarterback Joe Flacco in the first round of the 2008 NFL Draft, who went on to eventually be named Super Bowl XLVII MVP. Hortiz graduated from Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in accounting, working as an undergraduate assistant coach for the Tigers football team from 1995-97.

Hortiz and his wife, Jennifer, have four sons — Joey, Jack, Jamie and Julian.

HORTIZ CAREER CAPSULE

Season	Team	Position
1995-97	Auburn University	Undergraduate Assistant
1998-2000	Baltimore Ravens	Personnel Assistant
2001-05	Baltimore Ravens	Area Scout
2006-08	Baltimore Ravens	National Scout
2009-18	Baltimore Ravens	Director of College Scouting
2019-23	Baltimore Ravens	Director of Player Personnel
2024-Present	Los Angeles Chargers	General Manager

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chad ALEXANDER

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

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2nd Season With Chargers

louis CLARK

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL

29th NFL Season
10th Season With Chargers

dennis ABRAHAM

DIRECTOR OF PRO SCOUTING

31st NFL Season
26th Season With Chargers

corey KRAWIEC

DIRECTOR OF PLAYER PERSONNEL STRATEGY

13th NFL Season
2nd Season With Chargers

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jim HARBAUGH

HEAD COACH

23nd NFL Season
4th Season With Chargers

The Los Angeles Chargers hired Jim Harbaugh as the 19th head coach in franchise history, returning the former Bolts quarterback from the 1999 and 2000 seasons to Southern California. Harbaugh posted a 144-52 record as a collegiate head coach and has a 60-29-1 record as an NFL head coach. As head coach, Harbaugh led the Michigan Wolverines to a National Championship, while previously coaching the San Francisco 49ers to three-straight NFC Championship Games, including an appearance in Super Bowl XLVII.

In five seasons as an NFL head coach, Harbaugh has coached 21 players to a combined 34 Pro Bowl appearances. Among coaches with at least 60 games coached, his .685 winning percentage in the regular season (55-25-1 record) is the eighth-best in NFL history. Harbaugh's teams have allowed just 17.5 points per game in those five seasons, the fifth-best mark for any NFL head coach with at least 75 games coached since the 1970 NFL-AFL Merger.

Harbaugh continued his renowned reputation as a winner in his first season at the helm for the Chargers in 2024, orchestrating a six-win turnaround from the previous season, as the Bolts finished with an 11-6 record and a postseason berth. He coached four players to earn Pro Bowl recognition, headlined by safety Derwin James Jr., outside linebacker Khalil Mack and tackle Rashawn Slater.

In 2024, the Los Angeles offense protected the football as well as any unit in the history of football, committing just eight turnovers to set the franchise record and tie for the second-fewest offensive turnovers in a single season in NFL history. Key to that was quarterback Justin Herbert, whose three interceptions and 0.6 interception percentage on the year were each the second-best in a season in NFL history among players with at least 450 pass attempts. Herbert also had a stretch of 357 pass attempts without an interception, the fifth-longest streak in NFL history. Rookie wide receiver Ladd McConkey, who emerged as a premier receiving threat, setting franchise rookie records with a team-high 82 catches and 1,149 receiving yards, while also hauling in seven touchdowns. Meanwhile, the offensive line featured one the best tackle duos in football in Rashawn Slater and rookie Joe Alt.

A hallmark of Harbaugh-coached teams is a stingy defense, with the Bolts 2024 unit proving to be just that, allowing a league-best 17.7 points per game. The defense also ranked No. 5 on third down (35.7 pct.) and seventh in passing defense (206.9 net passing yards per game), while pacing the NFL in red zone defense, allowing just 18 touchdowns on 40 drives in the red zone. On top of his Pro Bowl recognition, Derwin James Jr., was named AFC Defensive Player of the Month for December/January and was named an Associated Press second-team All-Pro after being just one of four NFL players — and the only defensive back — to have 70 tackles, five sacks, an interception and five passes defensed in 2024. The unit was led by second-year linebacker Daiyan Henley's 142 tackles, posting a league-best nine games with at least 10 tackles. Rookie cornerbacks Tarheeb Still and Cam Hart to take over starting roles during the season, with Still earning AFC Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts in the Week 13 victory at Atlanta.

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On special teams, kicker Cameron Dicker set career highs by making 39 field goals and scoring 150 points, both setting single-season franchise records by a kicker. He tied a franchise long with a 59-yard field goal and, in Week 16, he made a 57-yard fair catch free kick field goal to close the first half, believed the to be the longest such kick in history and the first make since 1976. Dicker capped the season by winning AFC Special Teams Player of the Week back-to-back in Weeks 17 and 18, his third and fourth career Special Teams Player of the Week honors.

Harbaugh rejoined the Chargers after spending the previous nine years at his alma mater as head football coach for the University of Michigan. He led Michigan to an 86-25 record along with three-consecutive Big Ten Championships, three-straight appearances in the College Football Playoff and a perfect 15-0 record during his final season in Ann Arbor, Mich., that saw the Wolverines crowned 2023 National Champions.

As head coach for the Wolverines, Harbaugh coached the top defense in the nation, allowing just 291.0 yards per game in that nine-year span. Michigan had a top-five defense in the country five times over those nine seasons, including twice as the top-ranked defense in the nation. His keen eye for talent and ability to develop players was on display at Michigan, as he coached nine eventual first-round NFL Draft selections over his nine-season tenure, including defensive end Aidan Hutchinson (No. 2 in 2022), linebacker Devin Bush (No. 10 in 2019) as top-10 picks.

Harbaugh returned to his alma mater after spending four seasons (2011-14) as the head coach of the San Francisco 49ers, leading the team to a 49-22-1 record and three-consecutive NFC Championship Games, including a victory in 2012 to represent the NFC in Super Bowl XLVII. He was named 2011 NFL Coach of the Year by The Associated Press after his first season with San Francisco, when he led the 49ers to an NFC West division crown with a 13-3 record. That season, the defense led the NFL with 38 takeaways and ranked No. 1 in rushing defense, allowing just 77.3 yards per game on the ground.

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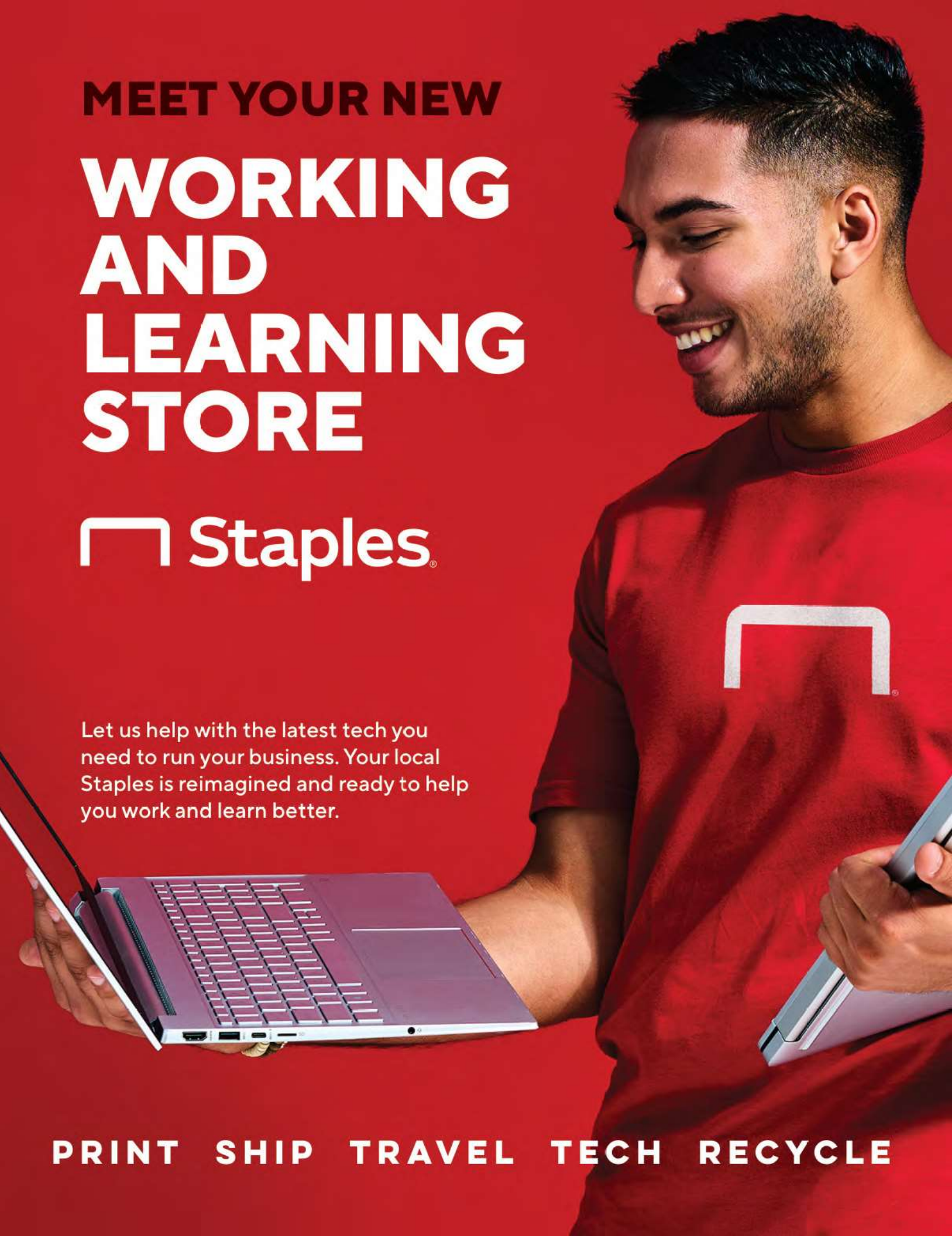

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a game in which San Francisco orchestrated a 17-point comeback, Harbaugh's 2012 unit led the NFC in total defense (294.4 total net yards per game) and passing defense (200.2 net passing yards per game). In 2013, Harbaugh led a resilient group that won each of their final six games to clinch a playoff spot before winning two postseason bouts and appearing in the NFC Championship Game for the third-straight season.

Harbaugh coached 17 players to a combined 30 Pro Bowls with the 49ers — the second-most Pro Bowlers in the NFL in that time. Eight of those players were also recognized as AP first-team All-Pros, including linebackers Patrick Willis (twice) and NaVorro Bowman (three times). Over Harbaugh's four years with San Francisco, the 49ers led the NFL in rushing defense (92.0 yards per game), while ranking No. 2 in scoring defense (17.4 points per game), third in total defense (310.2) and No. 4 with 122 takeaways.

Prior to being a head coach in the NFL, Harbaugh spent four years at the helm at Stanford University (2007-10) and three at the University of San Diego (2004-06). He turned around a Stanford program that went 1-11 in 2006 and led the Cardinal to 29 wins over his four seasons in Palo Alto, Calif., including a 12-win season that culminated in an Orange Bowl victory in 2010. Harbaugh broke into the head coaching ranks at San Diego, leading the Toreros to a 29-6 record in three years.

Harbaugh began his coaching career as the quarterbacks coach for the Oakland Raiders from 2002-03. In his first season with Oakland, the Raiders went to Super Bowl XXXVII, while quarterback Rich Gannon earned MVP honors and was named a Pro Bowler and an AP first-team All-Pro.

In 15 years as an NFL quarterback (1987-2001), Harbaugh played for five organizations, including with the Chargers from 1999-2000. He got his start in coaching while he was still playing in the NFL, working as an unpaid assistant at Western Kentucky from 1994-2001, where his father, Jack, was the head coach. Harbaugh was selected with the 25th overall pick in the 1987 NFL Draft by Chicago and went on to start 140-of-177 career games played, throwing for 26,288 yards and 129 touchdowns. He led the NFL in passer rating in 1995, earning Comeback Player of the Year recognition and a Pro Bowl selection after leading the Colts to an AFC Championship Game appearance. Harbaugh eventually went to the Chargers for two seasons and is one of four Bolts quarterbacks to throw for 400 yards in a single game.

HARBAUGH CAREER CAPSULE

PLAYING BACKGROUND

Season/s	College/Pro Team	Position
1982-86	University of Michigan	Quarterback
1987-93	Chicago Bears	Quarterback
1994-97	Indianapolis Colts	Quarterback
1998	Baltimore Ravens	Quarterback
1999-2000	San Diego Chargers	Quarterback
2001	Carolina Panthers	Quarterback

COACHING BACKGROUND

Season/s	College/Pro Team	Position
1994-2001	Western Kentucky University	Assistant
2002-03	Oakland Raiders	Offensive Assistant
2004-06	University of San Diego	Head Coach
2007-10	Stanford University	Head Coach
2011-14	San Francisco 49ers	Head Coach
2015-23	University of Michigan	Head Coach
2024-Present	Los Angeles Chargers	Head Coach

Harbaugh played quarterback at the University of Michigan, finishing his career as one of the most efficient passers in college football history. He posted a 21-3-1 record as a starter for the Wolverines, earning first-team All-American honors and finishing third in voting for the Heisman Trophy in 1986. Harbaugh paced the nation in 1985 in passing efficiency rating, while his career passing efficiency rating ranked as the best in NCAA history for more than 12 years following his time at Michigan.

Harbaugh has long been an advocate for collegiate student athletes. During his time as the head coach at Michigan, Harbaugh instrumental in helping refine and create change in collegiate athletics to benefit the student athletes. He was a pioneer among collegiate head coaches in calling for changes in transfer portal rules and eligibility, NLI and profit sharing.

A native of Toledo, Ohio, Harbaugh and his wife, Sarah, have two daughters — Addison and Katherine — and two sons — Jack and John. He also has three adult children — Jay, James Jr., and Grace. Harbaugh's son, Jay, is the special teams coordinator for the Seattle Seahawks. He is also the younger brother of Baltimore Ravens Head Coach John Harbaugh, and the two are sons of Jack and Jackie Harbaugh.

assistant COACHES

OFFENSE AND SPECIAL TEAMS

Greg Roman
Offensive Coordinator

Andy Bischoff
Run Game Coordinator/ Tight Ends

Marcus Brady
Passing Game Coordinator

Jeff Carpenter
Offensive Quality Control/ Tight Ends

Shane Day
Quarterbacks

Mike Devlin
Offensive Line

Nick Hardwick
Assistant Offensive Line

Sanjay Lal
Wide Receivers

Kiel McDonald
Running Backs

Kirk Campbell
Offensive Assistant

Josh Hammond
Offensive Assistant

Justin Poindexter
Alex G. Spanos Coaching Fellow

Maurquice Shakur
Alex G. Spanos Coaching Fellow

Ryan Ficken
Special Teams Coordinator

Chris Gould
Assistant Special Teams

assistant COACHES

DEFENSE AND PLAYER PERFORMANCE

Jesse Minter
Defensive Coordinator

NaVorro Bowman
Linebackers

Steve Clinkscale
Defensive Backs

Mike Elston
Defensive Line

Mike Hiestand
Defensive Assistant

Rick Minter
Senior Defensive Analyst

Robert Muschamp
Defensive Quality Control

Adam Fuller
Safeties

Dylan Roney
Outside Linebackers

Miles Taylor
Alex G. Spanos Coaching Fellow

Ben Herbert
Executive Director of Player Performance

Jonathan Brooks
Head Strength & Conditioning

Devin Woodhouse
Head Strength & Conditioning

Ben Rabe
Director of Performance Analytics

Lincoln DeWolf
Performance Analyst

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version 2.0

By Omar Navarro

How The Chargers Built Themselves Up For The 2025 Season

A few days removed from the Chargers 2024 season officially coming to a close, General Manager Joe Hortiz and Head Coach Jim Harbaugh held a press conference to wrap things up in El Segundo.

Rather than lament a Wild Card playoff loss, however, the duo immediately turned the page to the 2025 season, harping on an overarching feeling of optimism for the future.

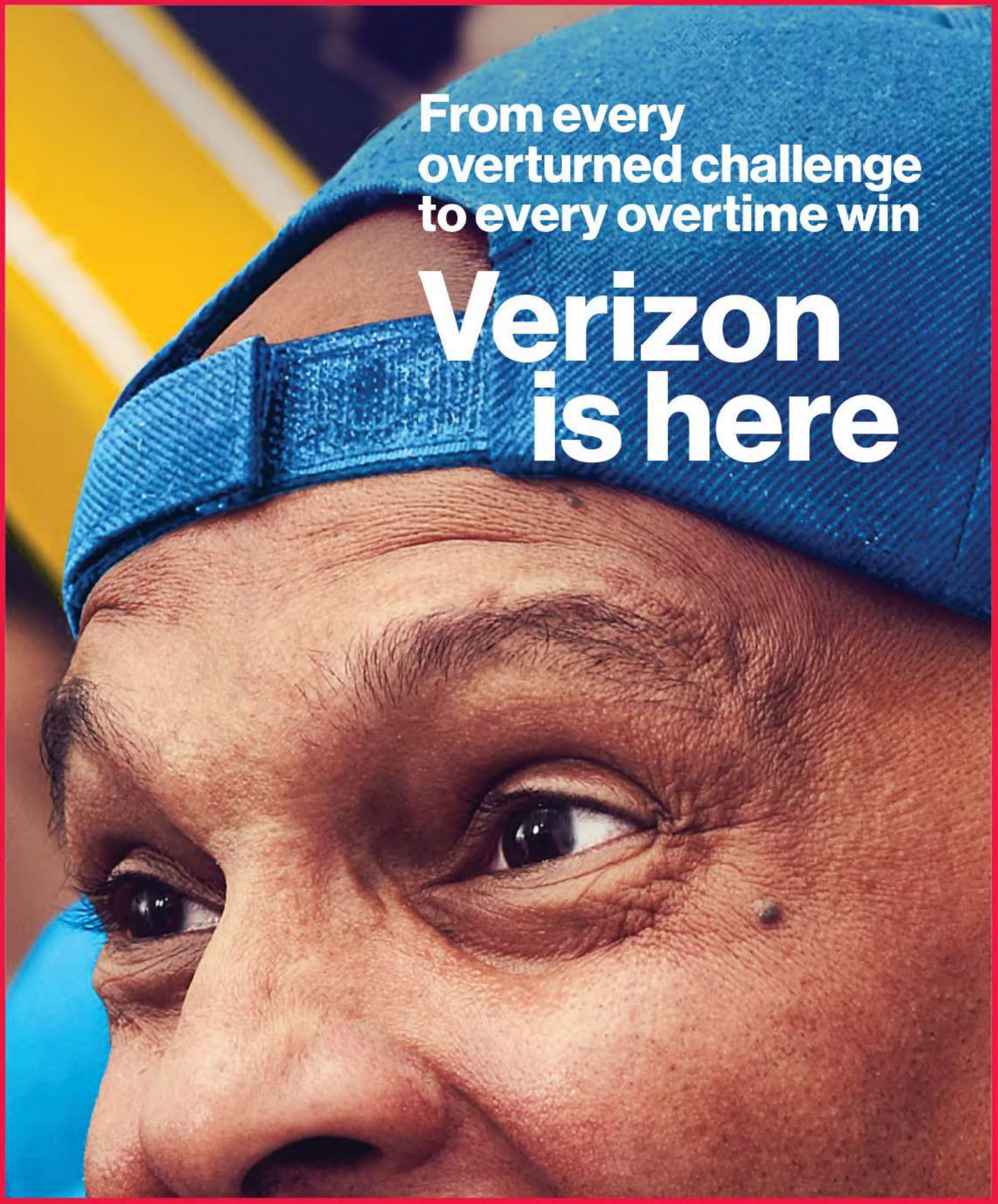
It was a flip of the page — and it marked the beginning of Year 2 for Hortiz and Harbaugh in Southern California.

"We didn't achieve ultimate success that's reserved for the World Champion," Harbaugh said in January. "There's an after-game, after loss-mood that I feel. But [there's] so much good.

"So much good to build on that creates a lot of excitement for me and Joe as we build Version 2.0," he added.

The term 'Version 2.0' became another buzzword around the Chargers throughout the offseason and held true throughout the free agency period and the draft as they built out the roster.

Jim Harbaugh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The message was clear in what they were looking for: Chase constant improvement in all areas to build the best possible, and competitive, roster in Year 2.

And they were able to do just that.

"The competitive waters are so heated," Harbaugh said this offseason.

"Competitors are welcome here at the Los Angeles Chargers," Harbaugh added. "They have been welcomed... That will continue, but it's in a really good place right now because so many have been added or trained themselves to be in an ascending place. Just better this year."

Here's a look at how the Chargers stack up in Year 2 of the Hortiz and Harbaugh Era:

GETTING BIGGER AND BETTER

The Chargers are set at quarterback with Justin Herbert.

Herbert is coming off one of the better and most efficient seasons of his career where he helped elevate the offense and those around him.

But one of the goals heading into the offseason, according to Hortiz, was supporting the franchise quarterback in all facets as he continues to improve.

That included making everything better, whether it was with bolstering the offensive line, run game or more weapons in the pass game.

The Chargers checked each box with flying colors.

The Bolts added reinforcements throughout the entire offense, starting with a reworked backfield that got closer to Harbaugh's philosophy in one offseason.

The ground game had its moments last season, getting some big performances at times but never reaching the consistency they hoped.

But by adding Najee Harris, one of the most consistent running backs in the league, plus 2025 first-round pick Omarion Hampton, the team transformed the position and hopes to get one step closer to that consistency by adding both size and speed to the group.

"Our running game last year was timely at times, I think we hit some really big runs and situationally we were pretty good at times," Offensive Coordinator Greg Roman said. "Overall though, it's not what we want.

"It's not the level that we want, and we knew that every step of the way," he added.

A great run game will set up a great pass game, which also got an infusion of young and veteran talent.

The team added some pieces around wide receiver Ladd McConkey, who is looking to build off his historic rookie season, by bringing back a familiar face in wide receiver Keenan Allen.

An all-time Charger great, Allen was a veteran addition to go along with two rookie draft picks in Tre' Harris (second round) and KeAndre Lambert-Smith (fifth round).

On the tight end front, veteran Tyler Conklin brings a consistent presence, while fifth-rounder Oronde Gadsden could bring a big-play element to the room as a rookie.

The number of weapons around Herbert are deeper — which spells good things at the end of the day.

"Every year they're going to bring competition in," Chargers wide receiver coach Sanjay Lal said. "That's their job, that's our job.

Ladd McConkey

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Joe Alt

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"It just raises the level of everyone's play," he added.

It will all start up front along the offensive line, however, which arguably has the biggest spotlight on it entering 2025. Even so, Harbaugh likes the top-to-bottom depth of the unit.

"It's an improved group," Harbaugh said. "It's a bigger group, it's a better group."

Unfortunately, the Bolts will be without Rashawn Slater in 2025 after he suffered a season-ending knee injury in training camp.

The unit will now rely on Joe Alt at left tackle after he wasted no time in becoming one of the ascending players at his position as a rookie.

Slater's absence also puts veteran Trey Pipkins III in line to start at right tackle, a position where he has plenty of experience.

Hortiz and co. also brought along a massive addition in Mekhi Becton, a 6-foot-7 guard who immediately slotted in at right guard and will look to provide more consistency on the interior next to Pipkins.

That left the other two spots on the interior as the main spotlight throughout the offseason, as 2024 starters Bradley Bozeman and Zion Johnson battled out the center and left guard spots in a fierce competition that ultimately ended with both at their positions from last season.

Nonetheless, the offensive trenches have continued to build up the depth that has made it even better this year.

"I think we're way better," Harbaugh said. "It takes offensive linemen, most of the time, a year to physically develop, mature and understand the speed and the calls, and everything that goes into offensive line play.

"Our [15] offensive linemen and our free agent-signed offensive linemen, we're better in that 8 to [15] than we were last year," Harbaugh added. "Great guys to work with and develop, because it's rare."

The wheels were set in motion to build the offense in Harbaugh's vision during his first offseason last year.

And things rounded even more into shape in the second offseason of the regime, who hope the physicality and explosiveness of the unit goes up another level in another year under Roman.

"It's going to allow us to attack down the field more, or at least present the opportunity to," Roman said. "So we'll hopefully have that aspect to our offense as well as our ground-and-pound mentality, have those different options available to where it's realistic and legitimate."

"I think we've really helped ourselves in some areas there," he later added.

ROOM FOR COMPETITION

Having the league's best scoring defense a year ago is far from enough to keep Chargers Defensive Coordinator Jesse Minter and his staff satisfied entering 2025.

From the moment the season ended, Minter said he and his staff have been at work to try and find different ways to improve.

With the Minter's scheme already in place from a year ago, the focus was on sharpening returning players' skills and helping newcomers acclimate to the powder blue.

"The mindset, the attitude, it did feel like we kind of picked up where we left off with so many returning guys," Minter said. "The new guys were able to integrate in pretty quickly into the culture we try to create."

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"Feel great about the additions, feel great about the returning guys," Minter added. "Really look forward to this new opportunity in 2025."

The veteran leadership continues to be a strong suit on the defensive side of the ball with All-Pro Derwin James, Jr., and future Hall of Famer Khalil Mack leading the charge for another season.

And their work ethic, especially from the 12-year veteran Mack, has not gone unnoticed by the young rising stars on the defense.

"The work that [Mack] was putting in, the impact he had on other people to train at his level, was pretty incredible," Minter said. "For the young guys to have him around and putting in the work he's putting in and the way that he's doing it, it just makes everybody better."

That includes cornerbacks Tarheeb Still and Cam Hart, outside linebacker Tuli Tuipulotu, linebackers Daiyan Henley and Junior Colson and many more who figure to be relied upon in this year's defense.

It's a defense that has quite competition in all positions, starting upfront with the defensive line.

While Teair Tart, Otito Ogbonnia, Scott Matlock and Justin Eboigbe all return from a season ago, the team also drafted Jamaree Caldwell in the third round and signed a pair of veterans in Da'Shawn Hand and Naquan Jones to round out the group.

Just like a season ago when the defensive trenches stepped up and ironed itself out into a consistent unit, Minter expects the same this year.

"We traded maybe one or two guys for two to three guys when you look at it," Minter said.

He later added: "It was a little bit going into the year by committee and then that stuff sort of takes care of itself based on a guy getting in a rhythm, getting in a groove, playing really well."

It's similar in the linebacker room, who run back nearly the same room with Henley at the top after his breakout season. Denzel Perryman, Troy Dye and Colson will all factor into the mix as they all proved to step up when needed.

The secondary wraps up perhaps the most competitive part of the defense, specifically at cornerback.

After stellar rookie seasons from Still and Hart, they are now joined by veterans in Donte Jackson and Benjamin St-Juste, each of whom have a strong track record.

"The more guys you have that can cover people, in my opinion, the better," Minter said. "Look forward to having all those guys and letting it shake out."

With a lot of experience and up and comers in the room at each position, the Bolts are pushing one another to one-up last year's successes.

DICKER LEADS SPECIAL TEAMS

Chargers Special Teams Coordinator Ryan Ficken's group remain the same for a third straight season — and for good reason.

The trio of kicker Cameron Dicker, punter JK Scott and long snapper Josh Harris have found success in revitalizing the special teams.

Dicker has become one of the best kickers in the game, knocking in 92.9 percent of his kicks last season, including nine from at least 50 yards out.

And he enters the 2025 season where he can etch himself in the record books.

To qualify for the NFL's all-time leaderboard in field goal accuracy, a kicker must have at least 100 career attempts. Dicker entered the 2025 season at 97 attempts and with a career accuracy of 93.7 percent.

Whether the percentages change remains to be seen, but the Bolts have one of the biggest special teams assets in the league.

ONWARD AND UPWARD

Things feel a lot different heading into 2025 than it did a season ago.

"Everything you're doing, you're doing for a second time," Harbaugh said.

Another season of familiarity has gone a long way for the coaches and players when it comes to things on and off the field.

It has confidence levels very high for what the team could accomplish following a playoff berth in the first year.

"You're doing everything in the entire offseason that just led to more confidence from everybody," Harbaugh said. "I hate to use the word more comfortable, cause it's not a word I like to associate with football, but I see it in a positive way in that everybody knows the battle rhythm, everybody knows the systems.

"We were able to take where we were, and build on that," Harbaugh added.

Time, and the 2025 season, will tell exactly in what ways the Bolts were able to build on their impressive season.

But the Chargers have positioned themselves in a prime spot to continue their ascension to the team they want to be.

"I would say it's definitely on track," Harbaugh said. "I feel like that, and I'm not afraid to say that."

He later added: "I think we're better."

Cameron Dicker

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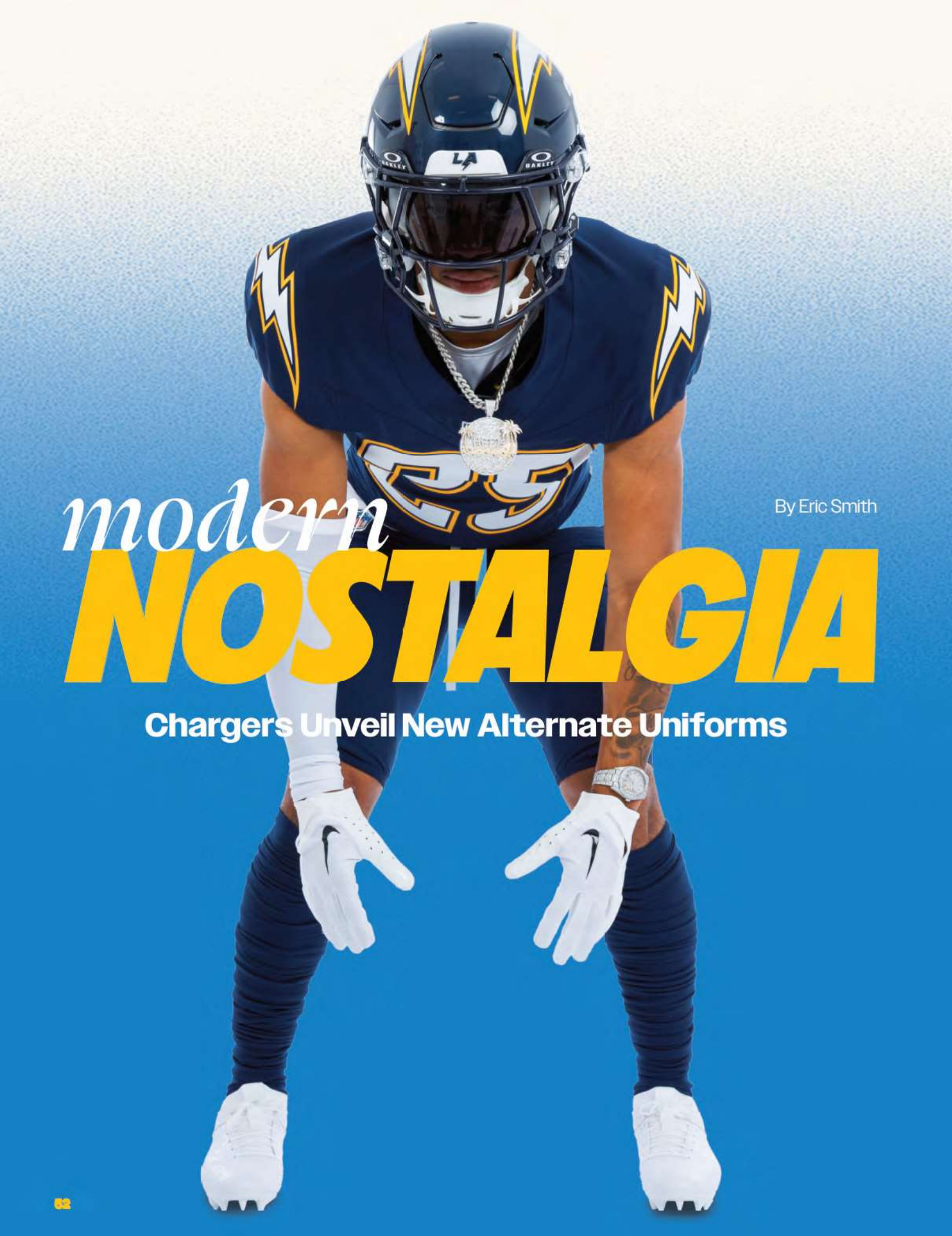

By Eric Smith

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The Chargers this summer unveiled new Charger Power and Super Chargers alternate uniforms as well as the addition of powder blue pants to the team's primary uniform kit.

Spanning the late 1970s to early 1980s revolutionary era of Air Coryell and the 1990s - early 2000s era in which the Chargers claimed the AFC Championship, appeared in Super Bowl XXIX and began a run of AFC West titles, the new alternates evoke an aura of modern nostalgia.

"I feel like the Chargers have the best uniforms. There's just something about the powder blue, the white, the gold. And after these new alternates drop, it won't be close."
— Derwin James, Jr.

Here's a detailed look at the Chargers new alternate uniforms:

CHARGER POWER

The Chargers have never worn a gold jersey before in team history, but they will for the Week 7 Legends Weekend game against the Colts at SoFi Stadium. Even though it's a franchise first, the jersey still invokes a feeling of modern nostalgia — capturing a moment in time where the Bolts revolutionized the way the game is played.

Yes, the Bolts have sold a version in the team store, but the 2025 season marks a new journey with a gold alternate uniform.

"Nike had previously done a retail version of the 2020 jerseys in gold," said President of Business Operations A.G. Spanos. It sold quite well and had really good word of mouth. In fact, in my own household, it was my kids' favorite uniform. It definitely appeals to the younger demographic.

"Ultimately, it captured a lot of things we were looking to accomplish with an alternate uniform," Spanos added. "It was a nod to the past but still had a youthful energy. We're excited to have it in the closet."

This look, dubbed Charger Power, will feature the current white helmet alongside gold pants, which the team introduced in 2020.

The gold jersey channels the energy and progressive nature of the Air Coryell days when the Chargers had one of the most explosive and lethal offenses the NFL has ever seen.

Fans packed the Murph back then wearing gold 'Charger Power' T-shirts - a phenomenon not lost on Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Fouts.

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Fouts explained what it was like to feel Charger Power on game days.

"It was wonderful. It really was," Fouts said. "As a quarterback, one of the great, unique things you can do is to quiet your own crowd.

"I had to do that so often so the team could hear my signals at the line of scrimmage. Charger Power was real, it wasn't just a slogan on a T-Shirt. That stadium was absolutely alive every time we took the field. We had to calm everyone down, they were so excited."

Spanos said the Bolts wanted to pay homage to a legendary time in both Chargers and NFL history.

"It was a special time, that Hall of Fame trio of Fouts/Joiner/Winslow and the Air Coryell Era. And it was also a revolutionary time," Spanos said. "You look at Dan Fouts' stats during that era and it's really mind boggling what they were able to accomplish.

"You can see images of fans in the stands all wearing gold and all wearing 'Charger Power' T-shirts. It's a special moment in the franchise's history, for sure," Spanos added. "We wanted to lean into that, and we think this was a fun way to do so."

James and Tuli Tuipulotu raved about the all-gold look they donned earlier this offseason.

"It brings excitement, something new," Tuipulotu said. "Of course, no matter what uniform we have on, we're going to go out there and play as hard as we can.

"It will bring some juice to the team, and you know everybody is going to be hyped."
—Tuli Tuipulotu

James said: "If you're going to do gold, the way we did it with all gold, it looks amazing. It's a great alternate!"

With Charger Power stitched on the neckline in powder blue, the gold jersey itself looks like the Chargers current primary uniforms of powder blue and white, only with white numbers with a powder blue outline.

Tuipulotu already can't wait to play in the Charger Power jersey.

"Once I put it on, it looked amazing. It's one of my favorites. It's fire," Tuipulotu said.

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SUPER CHARGERS

The Chargers have gone back to the future with one of the most iconic looks in franchise history.

Dubbed the Super Chargers uniform, the new threads are comprised of an all-navy set that includes a modernized helmet (with the identical finish of the previous era), jersey and pants that the Chargers will wear at home in Week 8 against the Vikings and again in Week 13 against the Raiders.

The Bolts will induct legendary safety Rodney Harrison, one of the most famous Chargers to don this uniform, the same day they debut them against Minnesota.

It's a nod to the past, to be sure.

Think of LaDainian Tomlinson setting the single-season touchdown record, Antonio Gates terrorizing defenses, Junior Seau racking up tackles, Harrison making his name as 'The Hitman,' and Stan Humphries, Chargers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh (during his playing days) and Philip Rivers throwing the ball all over the yard.

Players who previously wore navy love the new look.

"I love the navy. That was my favorite one," Gates said. "And once I saw this new version, I said, 'Yeah, I definitely would have scored a few touchdowns wearing that.' I love that uniform. I wish I could play in it again."

"If you think about the Chargers and the brand and the colors — and what that means — I think most people my age would identify with the navy blue and the lightning bolt. When you saw that jersey, more than likely you were in Qualcomm Stadium. And, more than likely, if you were on the other team in that era you were leaving with a loss."
— LaDainian Tomlinson

Legendary linebacker Shawne "Lights Out" Merriman said: "They were the hardest jerseys in football. They were so original and had a gritty feeling to them – we were going to go out there and run the football, play great defense and hit you in the mouth. You were going to get four quarters of pure hell. That's what those navy jerseys and helmets meant. When we came out in those navies, you knew what time it was."

Current players on the Chargers, some of whom modeled the new uniforms in a secret offseason shoot, said they are honored to represent franchise legends.

"I think of when I was playing video games as LaDainian Tomlinson and the throwback Chargers," James said. "It's just going to bring back so much tradition as the Chargers. That's what I knew the Chargers as growing up."

Daiyan Henley added: "It's a Seau-type of feeling. We're trying to tap back into those legends. It's a nod to them and a nod to the past. I want to do right by this jersey."

Alohi Gilman noted: "It was kind of like a nostalgic feeling, like you were watching the old Chargers. A little bit of that old school toughness. Culture, history ... that's what I felt wearing it for the first time. Looking at it, it evoked Junior Seau. He was obviously a Polynesian guy and that hit home for me. It was just super cool."

To be clear, the new navy uniforms look a bit different than what the Chargers previously wore.

With Super Chargers stitched in white on the neckline, other notable differences include a smaller bolt on the shoulders, the more streamlined bolt and a player's numbe on the helmet, modern numbers on the uniform itself with the old-school outline and the simple fact that they will only be worn navy on navy.

The majority of the look, however, is the same: a navy helmet with a navy facemask, a navy jersey with white numbers outlined with gold trim and navy pants with the bolt, filled in with white, on the sides.

It's a true modern throwback.

"The uniform is not the exact same uniform. It's been slightly updated and is a little bit more modern," said Spanos. "The lightning bolt is a little bit more streamlined to be more consistent with the current look. The numbers are slightly different and a bit more modern.

"But it still evokes emotion within when you look at it. When you see it head to toe on a player, it looks the way it's supposed to look," Spanos said, noting the navy look is special to him as it was the uniform the Chargers wore on the way to an appearance in Super Bowl XXIX after claiming the 1994 AFC Championship in Pittsburgh.

The last time the Chargers wore this particular look was the 2006 season.

"It closely resembles a great era in Chargers football that is obviously highlighted by a Super Bowl appearance. It's been nearly 20 years since we've worn that uniform," Spanos said. "A lot of people in their mid-30 to late-40s, that's the uniform they grew up with. As a fan, there's something very special about that era.

"It's a time capsule of sorts in the shape of a uniform because it makes you feel nostalgic when you see it. We're excited to bring back the look."

Spanos added: "The navy is special because it crosses so many great eras, between the 1992 and the 1994 teams that were so special with Stan Humphries, Natrone Means, Bobby Ross and so many others. And then it had a second life, so to speak, with Marty [Schottenheimer], LT, Gatesy and Philip. And Junior spanned both of those eras. It's a uniform where we went 14-2 and had the best record in the league, LT sets the single-season scoring record. The uniform is just really historic and memorable."

POWDER BLUE PANTS

The final portion of Tuesday's unveiling also included powder blue pants.

This is also a first for the Bolts, who have traditionally primarily worn white, navy or gold pants.

The powder blue pants are in line with the same pants the Bolts have worn in recent seasons.

Now, however, the Chargers have the option to wear these pants with either their current home powder blue uniform or road white jersey.

Count Cameron Dicker as a big fan of the new pants.

"They are sick, the powder blue pants. I'm a big fan of all the blue. It just looks so clean and so good."
— Cameron Dicker

Spanos said the Chargers had been looking to work powder blue pants into the team's primary uniform kit for quite some time.

"Pretty soon after our 2020 uniform launch we began getting the question, 'Why don't you have powder blue pants?' We heard it from fans and players alike," said Spanos. "Everyone wanted what we knew was probably a missing look, but rules only allowed for so many pant options and we were at our limit.

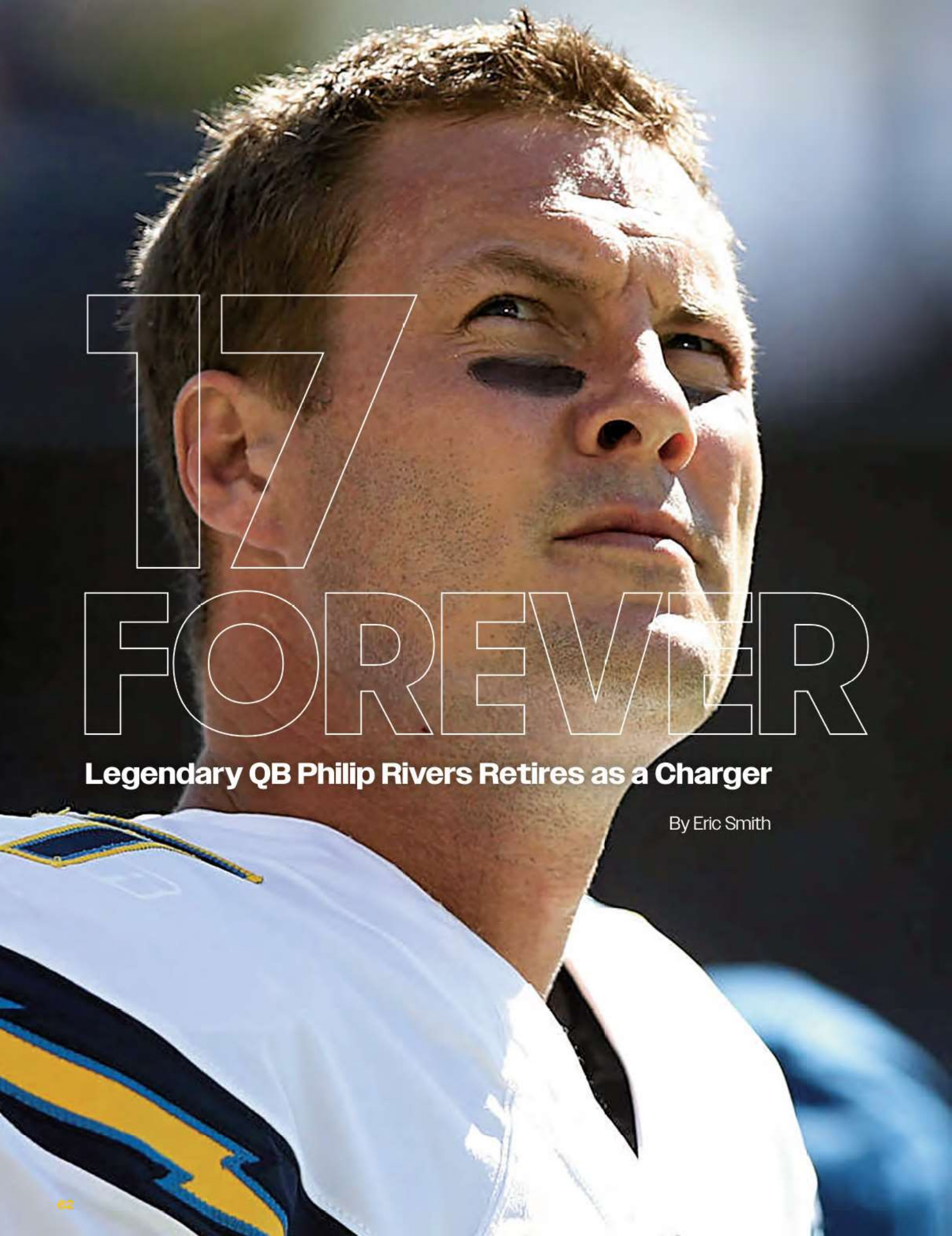
"We knew this time around we needed to be creative in how we could incorporate them into our uniform kit, and we're excited to bring even more versatility to our primary look for 2025 and beyond," Spanos said.

So, there you have it.

The best uniforms in the NFL just got even better ... again.

"We've always considered ourselves to be leaders in the uniform space," Spanos said.

"We take pride in the fact that the Chargers are widely considered to have the best uniforms in the NFL; some even argue in all of sports," Spanos added. "One of the main reasons for that is our continued push to evolve, authentically, with every opportunity. That's what this is about."



17 FOREVER

Legendary QB Philip Rivers Retires as a Charger

By Eric Smith

Philip Rivers had something to say.

"I'm Philip Rivers, quarterback, and I'm retiring as a Charger."

The Chargers shared the news in July that the legendary quarterback is retiring with the team he spent 16 seasons with, and Rivers told *Chargers.com* that doing so with the Bolts was always something near and dear to his heart.

"It's really, in the past handful of years, been my desire [to retire] as a Charger. It was more so the timing," Rivers said. "Gratitude is the first thing that comes to mind. Just thankful. Thankful for my time there as a Charger."

John Spanos, Chargers President of Football Operations, said Rivers will always hold a special place in franchise lore and that No. 17 retiring as a Charger was always a given.

"He and I have had discussions over the last several years, ever since his first year when he wasn't playing," Spanos said.

"He made it known back then he wanted to retire a Charger, and I obviously expressed that we would love that to happen as soon as he was ready," Spanos added. "I think we both knew this day was coming for a few years now."

With the moment having now arrived, Spanos could not stress enough how immensely grateful the organization is to Rivers for everything he's done for the franchise.

"It's very meaningful for us because of how important of a player he has been – and still is – for this franchise and all that he accomplished while he was here," Spanos said. "It's about all he did for the team, both on and off the field, how he represented himself, how he competed, the drive he had to succeed and the success that we had when he was here.

"For all those reasons, it was extremely important to us that we make this special for Philip," Spanos added.

While his stats and accolades speak for themselves, it's hard to know where to begin with the superlatives. An eight-time Pro Bowler, Rivers holds more than 30 Chargers records and led the Bolts to four straight AFC West titles from 2006-09.

And, of course, there are his 224 consecutive starts at quarterback.

He is the franchise leader in nearly every possible statistical passing category, including yards (59,271), touchdowns (397), completions (4,908) and attempts (7,591).

Rivers also orchestrated 32 game-winning drives and 28 fourth-quarter comebacks. It all added up to 123 wins as the Chargers starting quarterback, a number that obviously ranks first in team history.

"There are so many things I can say about Philip Rivers," said Hall of Fame running back LaDainian Tomlinson. "I think the one thing that I will always remember is I never felt like we were going to lose when he was playing quarterback.

"The confidence that he exuded really permeated throughout the entire team. And then, the fact of his ability to connect

with everyone on the team, no matter your background or your race. He was truly a great leader," Tomlinson added.

Yet for all the 300-yard games and memorable moments in Rivers' career, what he remembers most — and what he is probably most remembered for — is simply the way he played the game.

Because, dadgummit, almost nobody loved the game more than Rivers, who became known for wearing his heart on his sleeve and letting his opponents know what was on his mind.

"There are some clips I look at and shake my head," Rivers said. "Some are a little bit embarrassing and some where I go, 'Dang, that was a lot of fun. I was having a blast.' But knowing who I am, I know I was having a blast. Is there an edginess to it? Are you trying to get under the skin of the opponent? Of course.

"But it was just a lot of fun and again, it's in the backyard. It's nothing I wouldn't have said to my brother when we were arguing about something playing when we were kids," Rivers continued.

"It never changed. It was in the backyard in Decatur, Alabama ... and then it just so happened to be at Qualcomm Stadium or Arrowhead Stadium or Mile High Stadium. That is a little more magnified," Rivers added.

Spanos used the word "infectious" when describing what it was like to be around Rivers on a daily basis.

"It could be a middle-of-the-week practice and it could be a rep against the scout team and you could feel the importance of that play," Spanos said. "He would get mad if someone on the defense knocked it down. It would fire him up.

"A big part of what made him so great was that he had that drive and everything mattered so much to him," Spanos continued. "I remember he gave a talk once after practice where he spoke about the phrase, 'Everything matters.' And his point was that it can't just be game day that matters. The practices have to matter too, and he embodied that.

"And there's no doubt that it rubbed off on his teammates, and it was a big part of why we had so much success with him here," Spanos added.

Nick Hardwick, Rivers' former center, gushed about his friend and teammate.

Hardwick recalled a speech Rivers gave late during the 2012 season, a year in which the Chargers finished 7-9.

"It was one of the only years we were out of the playoffs before the very end of the season. It was our last game and guys were kind of moping around the locker room," Hardwick recalled. "He called us all up and he said, 'Remember, there was a time when you were a 5-year-old little boy. If they asked if you wanted to play in the NFL, you wouldn't care if the game didn't mean anything, and you wouldn't care if there were playoff implications or not. None of that would affect you. You would get to wear an NFL jersey with your name on the back and you would have given everything you had to do that. What's different now?'

"That was really his approach," Hardwick added. "That one speech always hits me, especially if I'm having a down moment, feel tired or whatever. You just kind of remember when you were a kid."

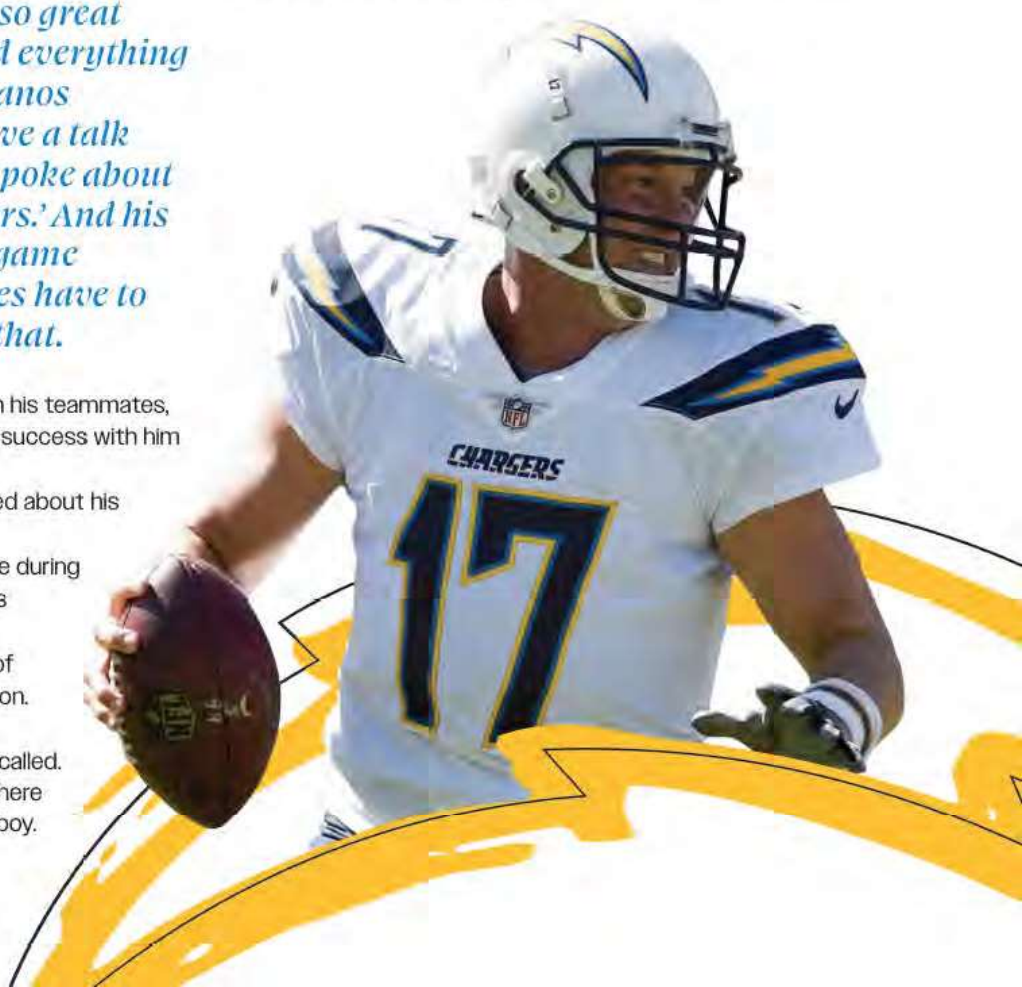
Rivers now lives in his home state of Alabama and serves as the head football coach at St. Michael Catholic High School in Fairhope.

But Philip Rivers has now retired as a Charger. And his love for the team remains stronger than ever.

"When I think about what I miss the most, it's the people. It's teammates ... at the facility, on the practice field," Rivers reminisced. "You miss those moments and interactions with people. There were so many highlights and fun Sundays at Qualcomm [Stadium] and on the road ... so many in-game moments.

"But what I miss, and what I'm most appreciative and thankful for, are those relationships and the things that were behind the scenes. What we lived every day is what was most memorable," Rivers continued.

"The wins that we had were awesome. But the growth moments you had, the experiences you still had with your teammates ... we still had it pretty dang good," Rivers added. "We were battling, working together. These times were testing us but, shoot, we got to come to work every day and go play in the National Football League."



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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-6	236	6 YEARS	OREGON

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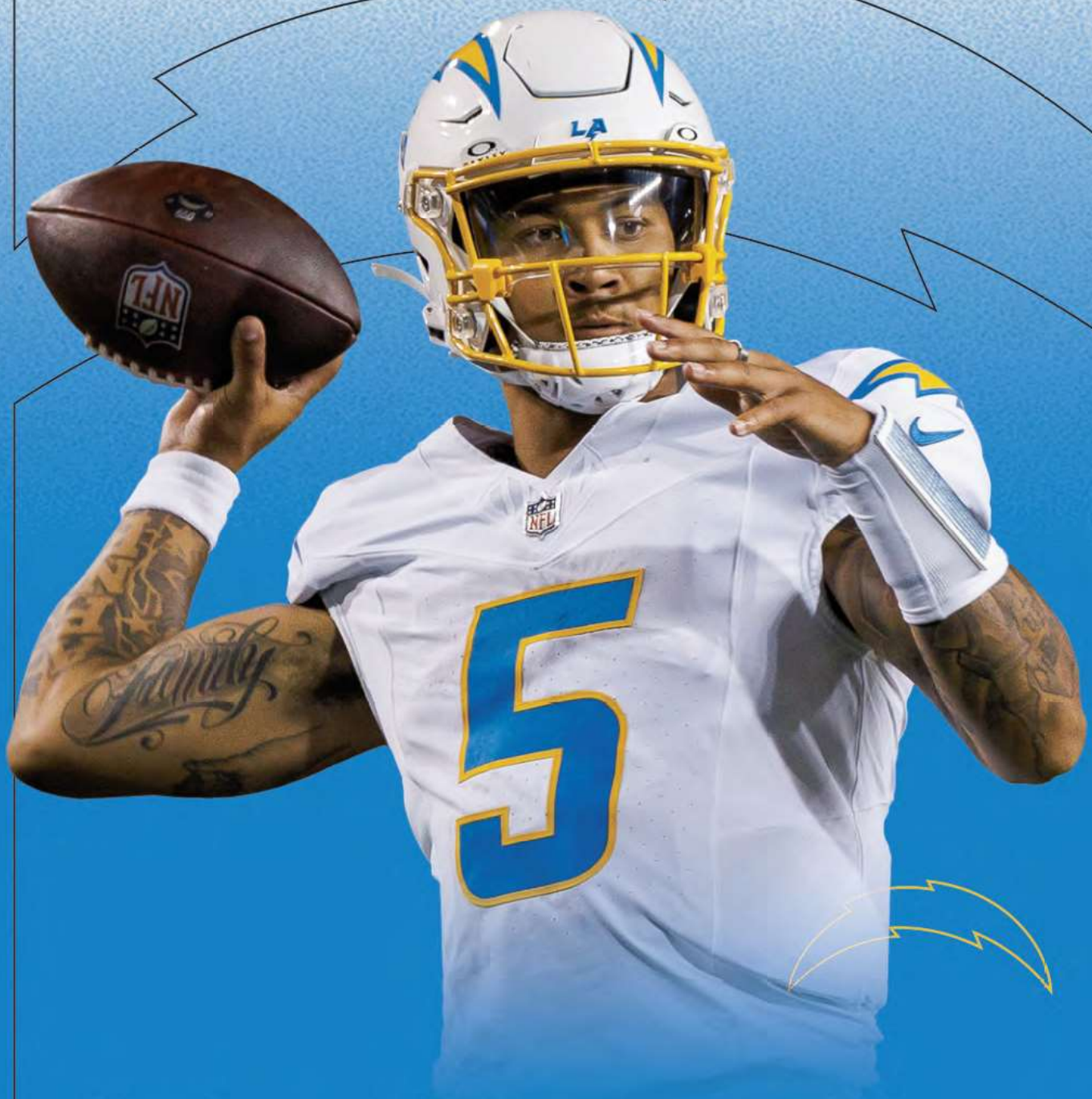

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-4	226	5 YEARS	NORTH DAKOTA STATE

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-1	242	5 YEARS	ALABAMA

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RB 8

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-0	220	ROOKIE	NORTH CAROLINA

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-2	228	4 YEARS	MICHIGAN

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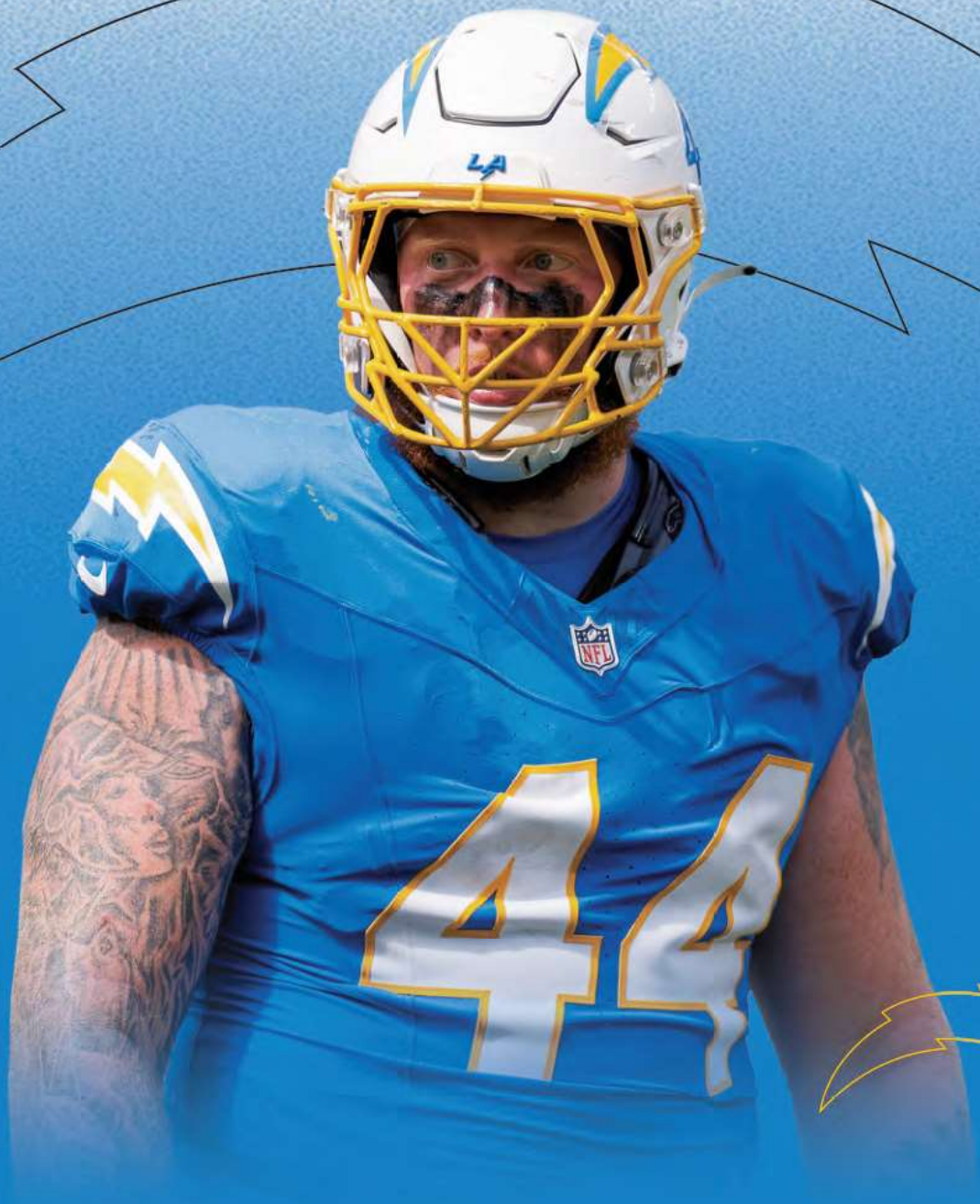

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6-4	296	3 YEARS	BOISE STATE

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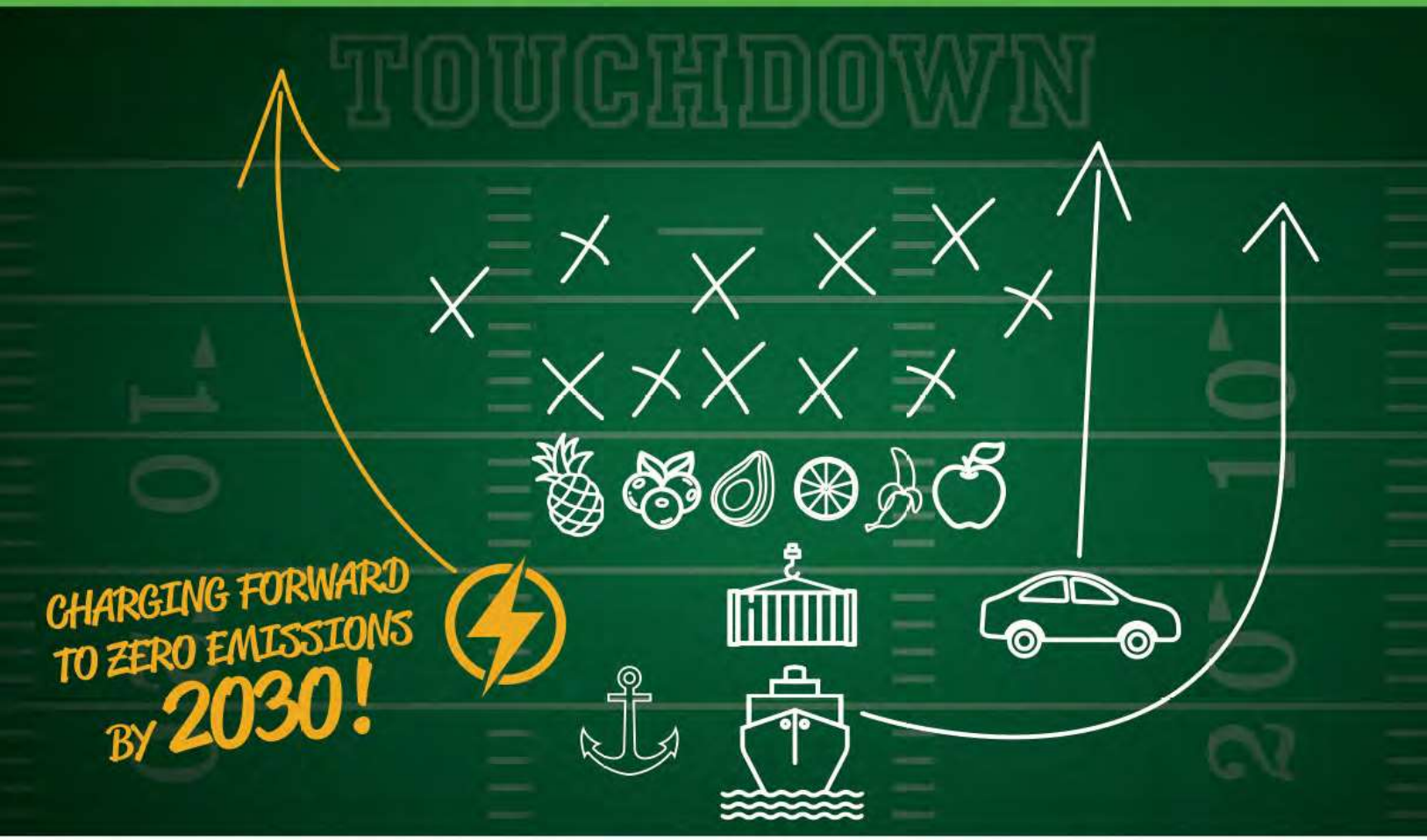

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WR 15

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-0	185	2 YEARS	GEORGIA

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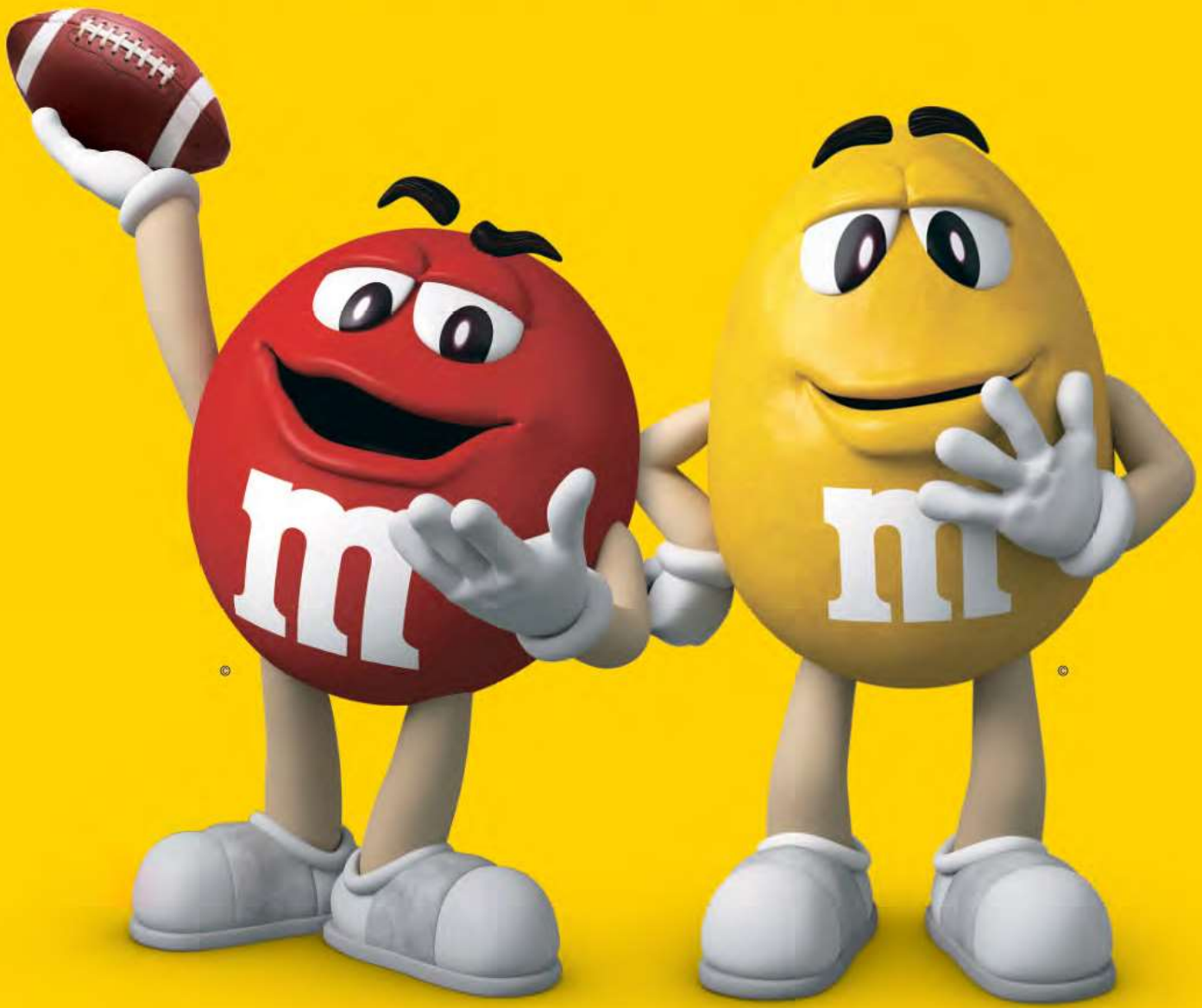

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WR 13

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-2	211	13 YEARS	CALIFORNIA

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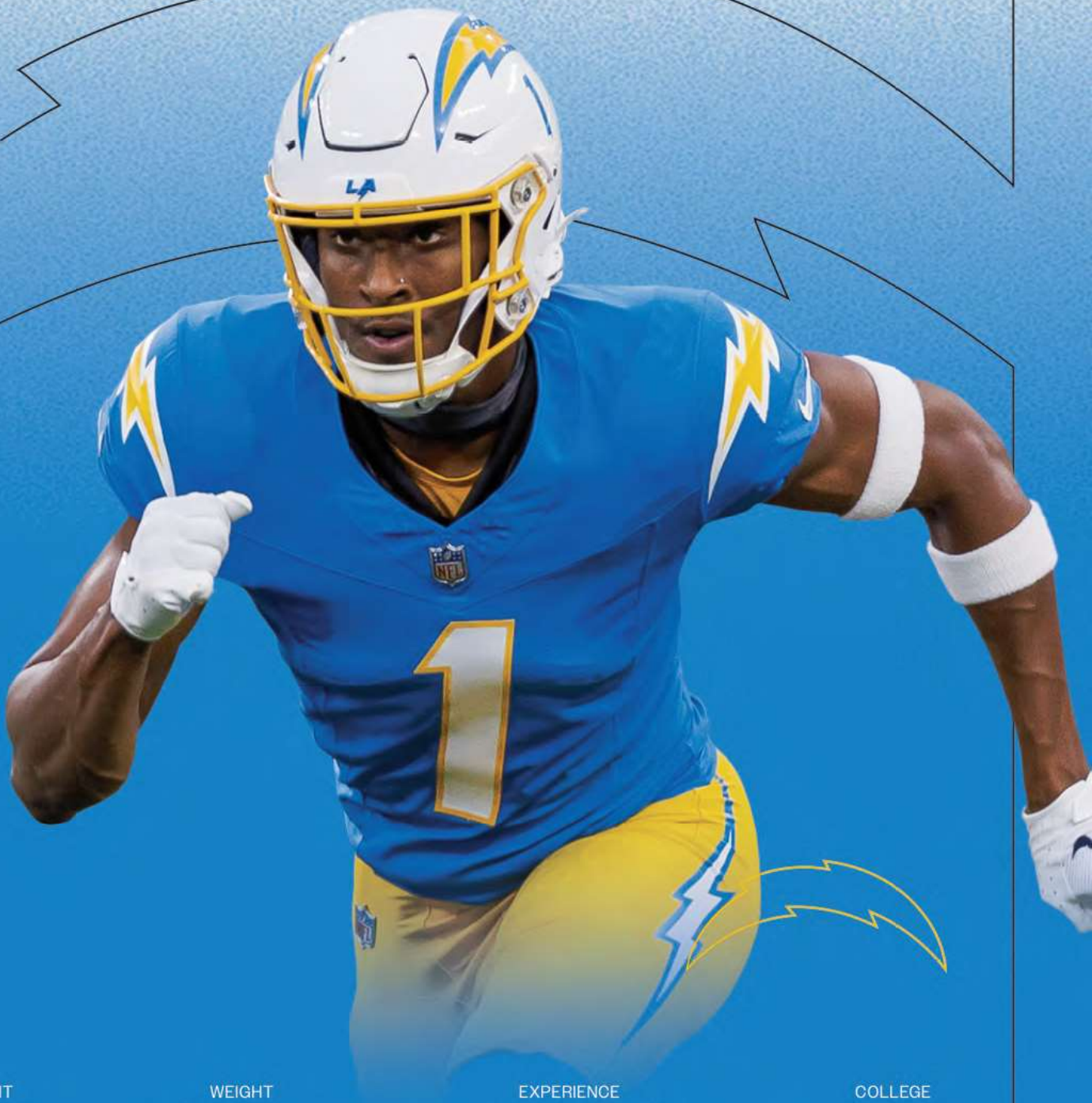

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6-2	208	3 YEARS	TCU

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
5-8	165	3 YEARS	TCU

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	210	ROOKIE	MISSISSIPPI

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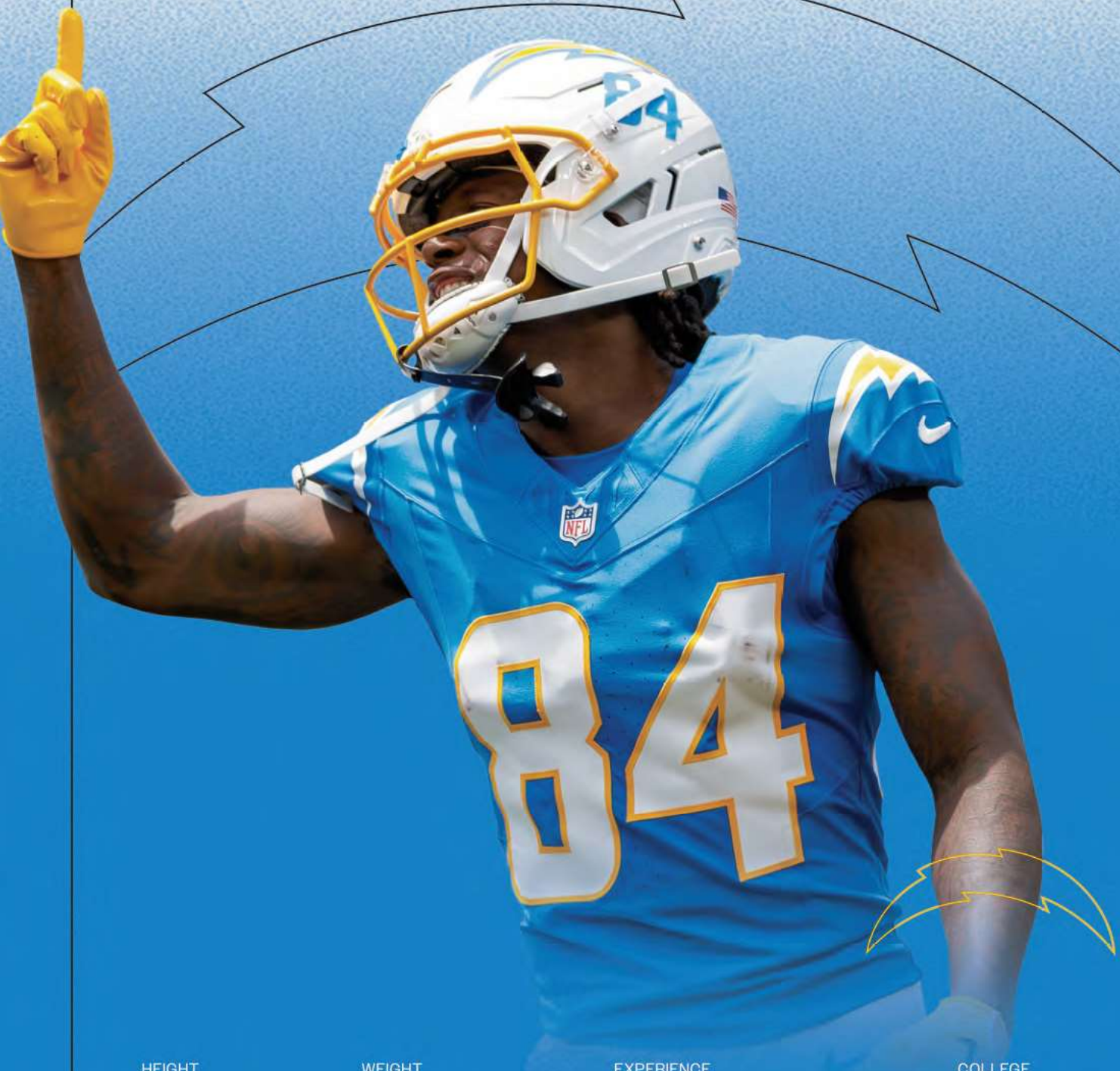

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6-1	182	ROOKIE	AUBURN

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-4	265	8 YEARS	WASHINGTON

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	248	8 YEARS	CENTRAL MICHIGAN

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-5	236	ROOKIE	SYRACUSE

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-4	285	2 YEARS	STANFORD

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6-8	322	2 YEARS	NOTRE DAME

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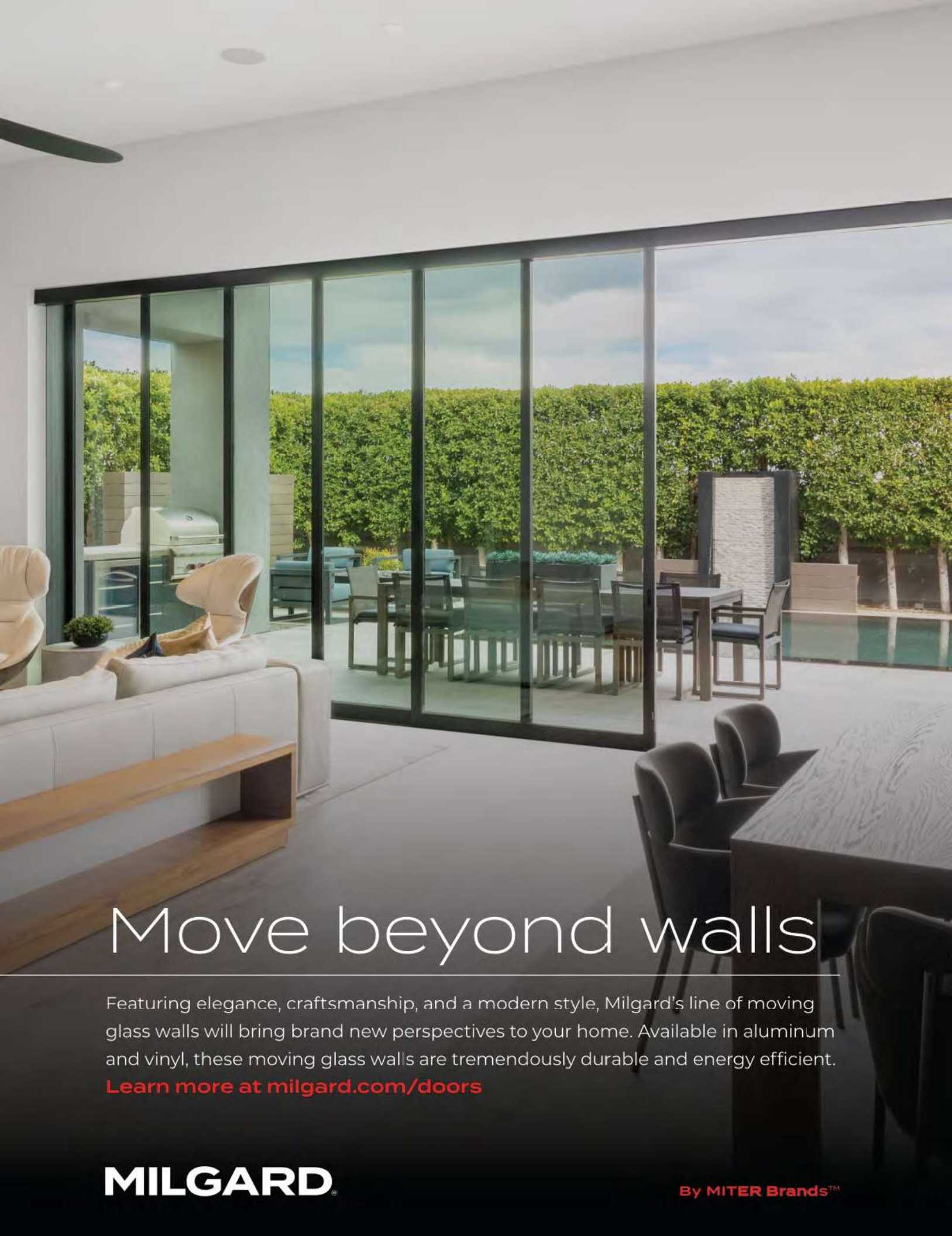
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-7	363	6 YEARS	LOUISVILLE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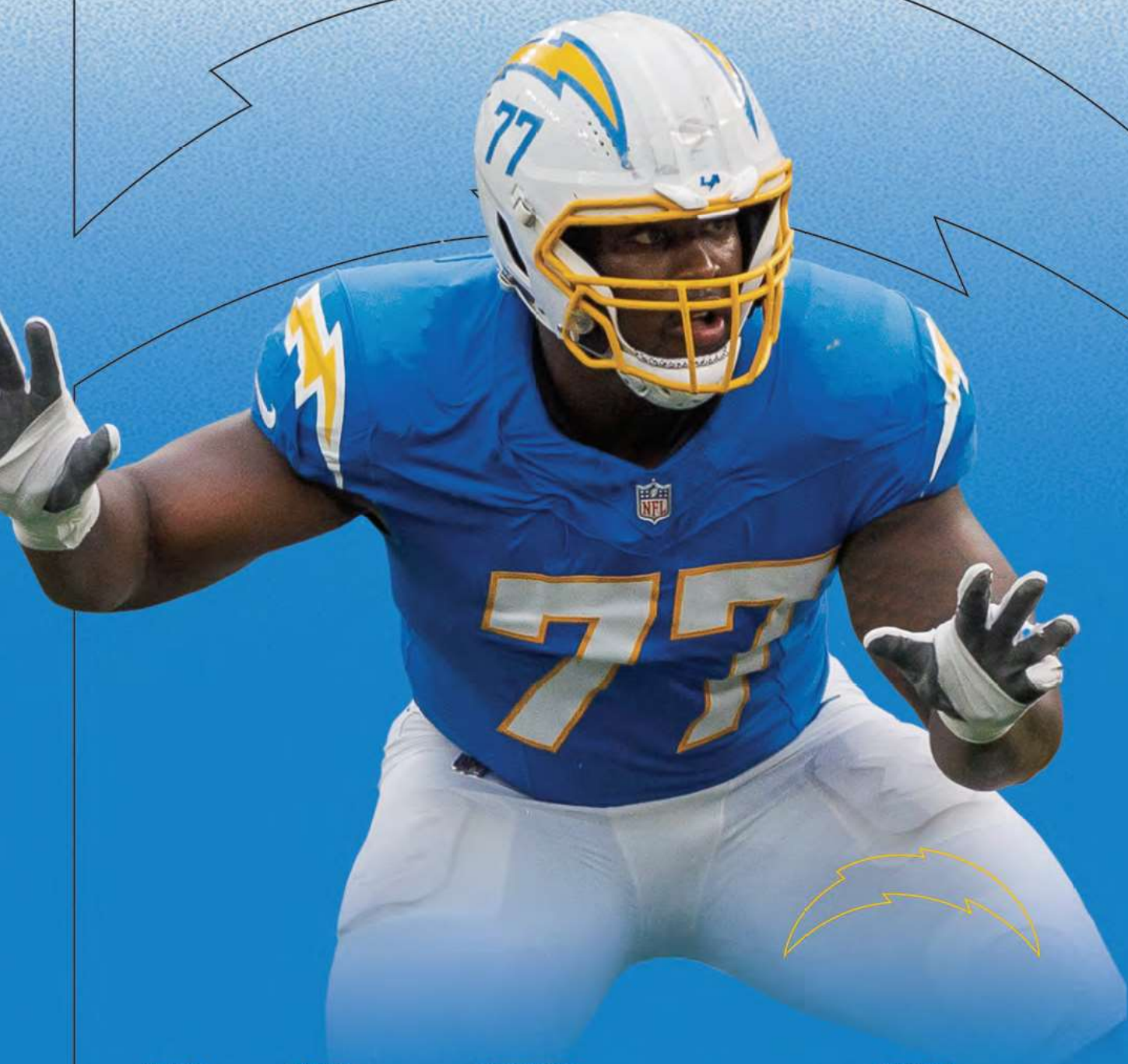

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	316	4 YEARS	BOSTON COLLEGE

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-6	307	7 YEARS	SIOUX FALLS

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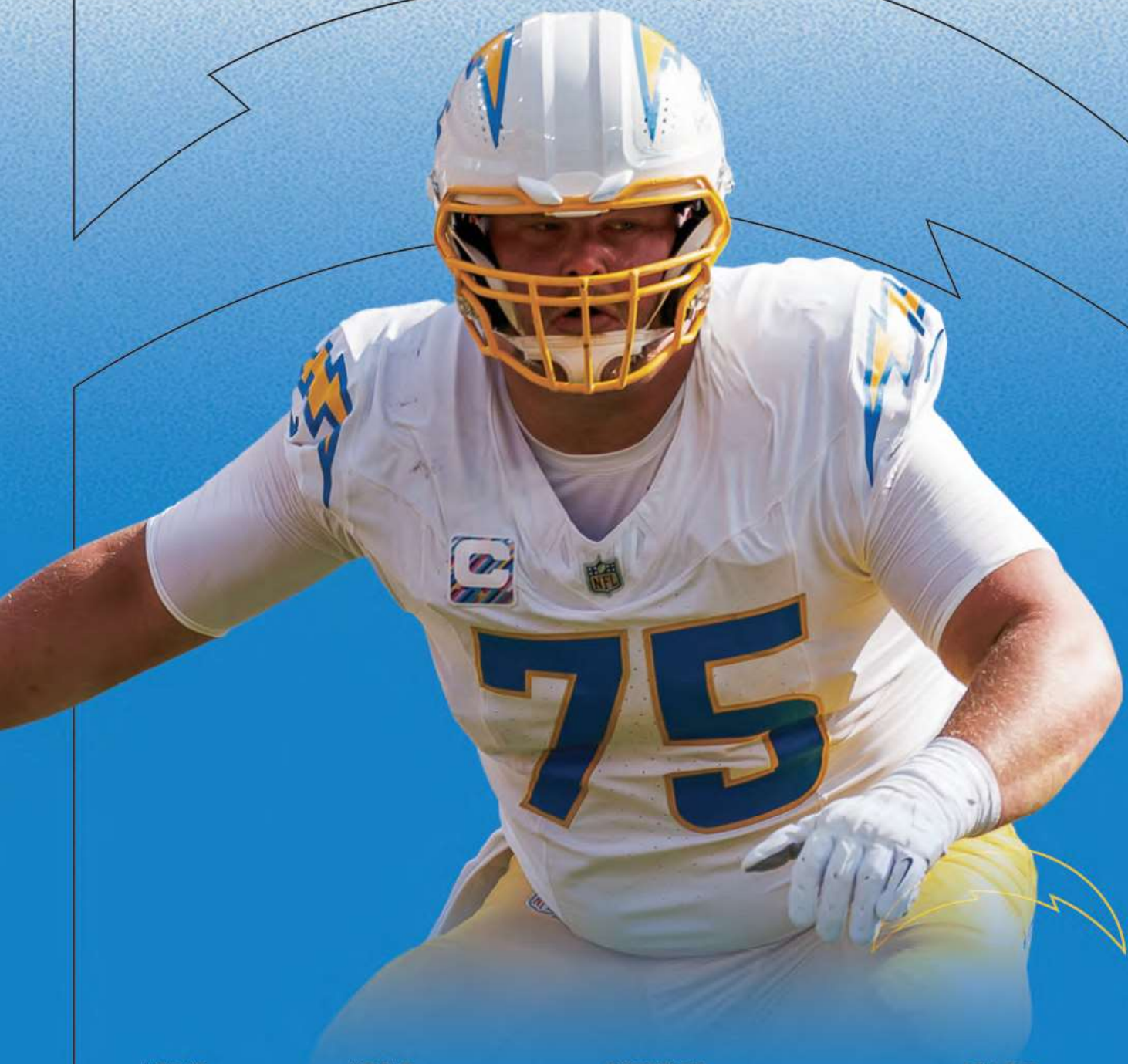

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-5	325	8 YEARS	ALABAMA

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jamaree SALYER

OL 68

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-4	325	4 YEARS	GEORGIA

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andre JAMES

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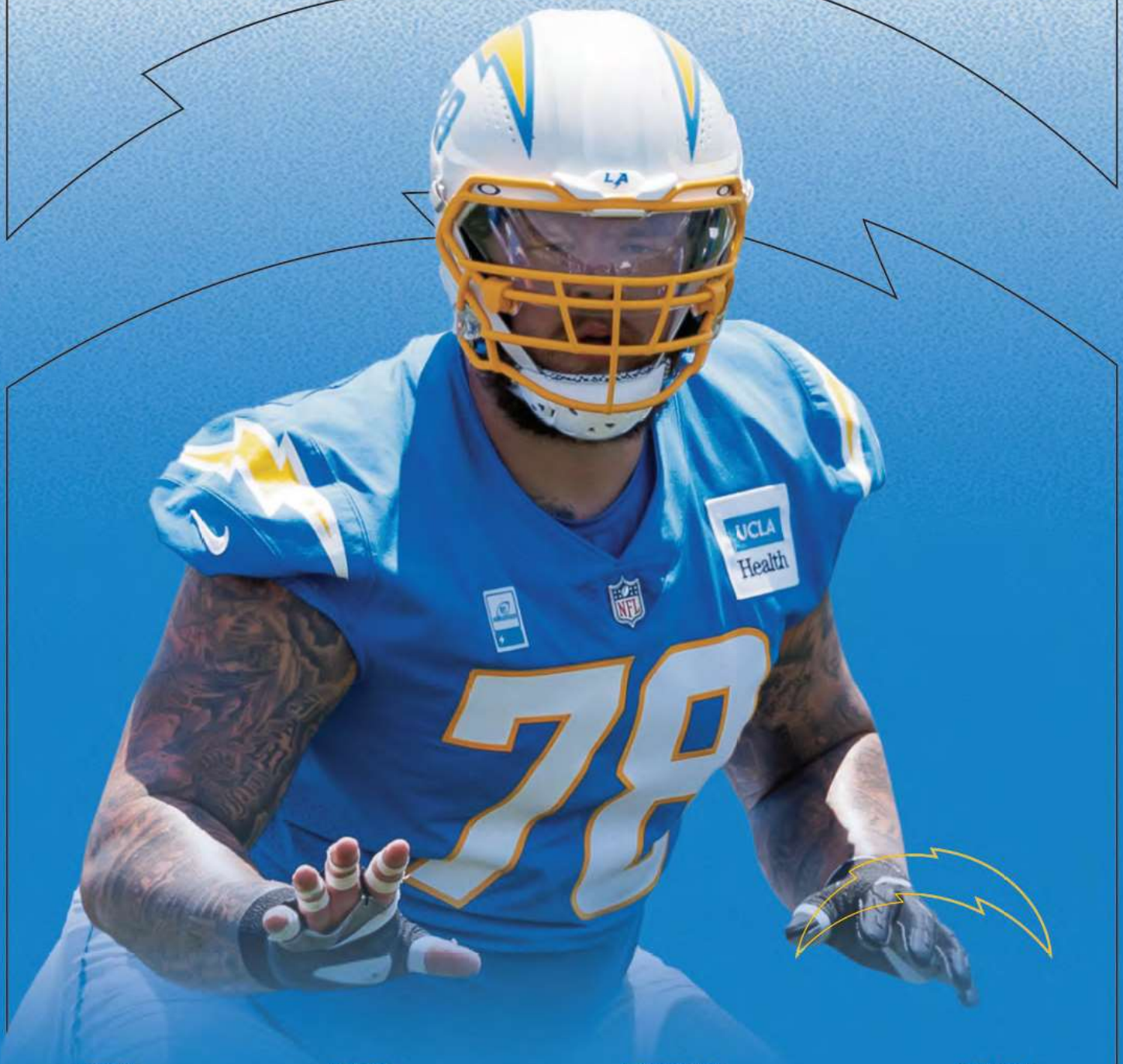

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-4	300	7 YEARS	UCLA

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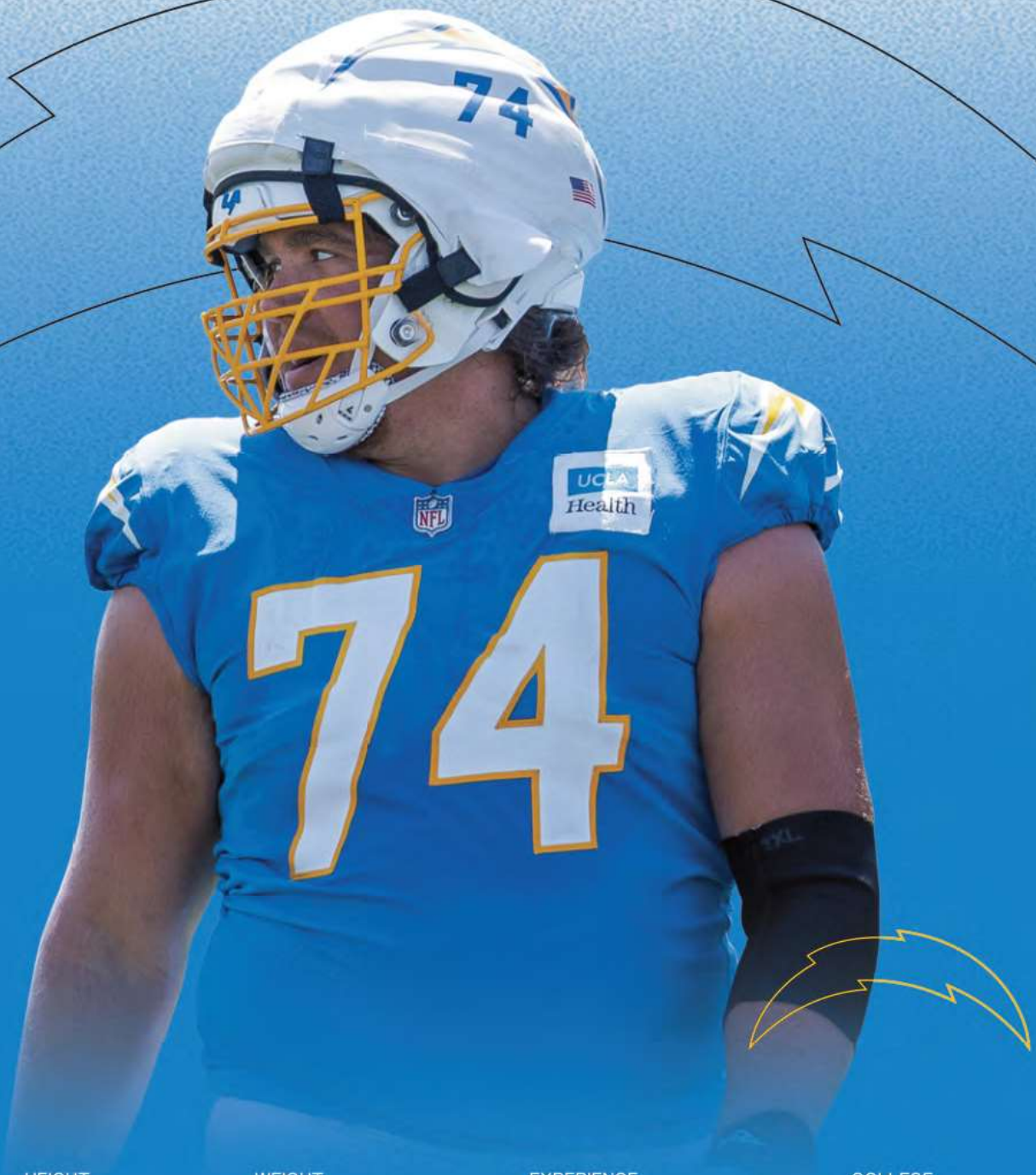
austin DECULUS

OT 74



HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-5	321	3 YEARS	LSU

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DL 90

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-2	315	6 YEARS	FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL

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DL 93

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-4	320	4 YEARS	UCLA

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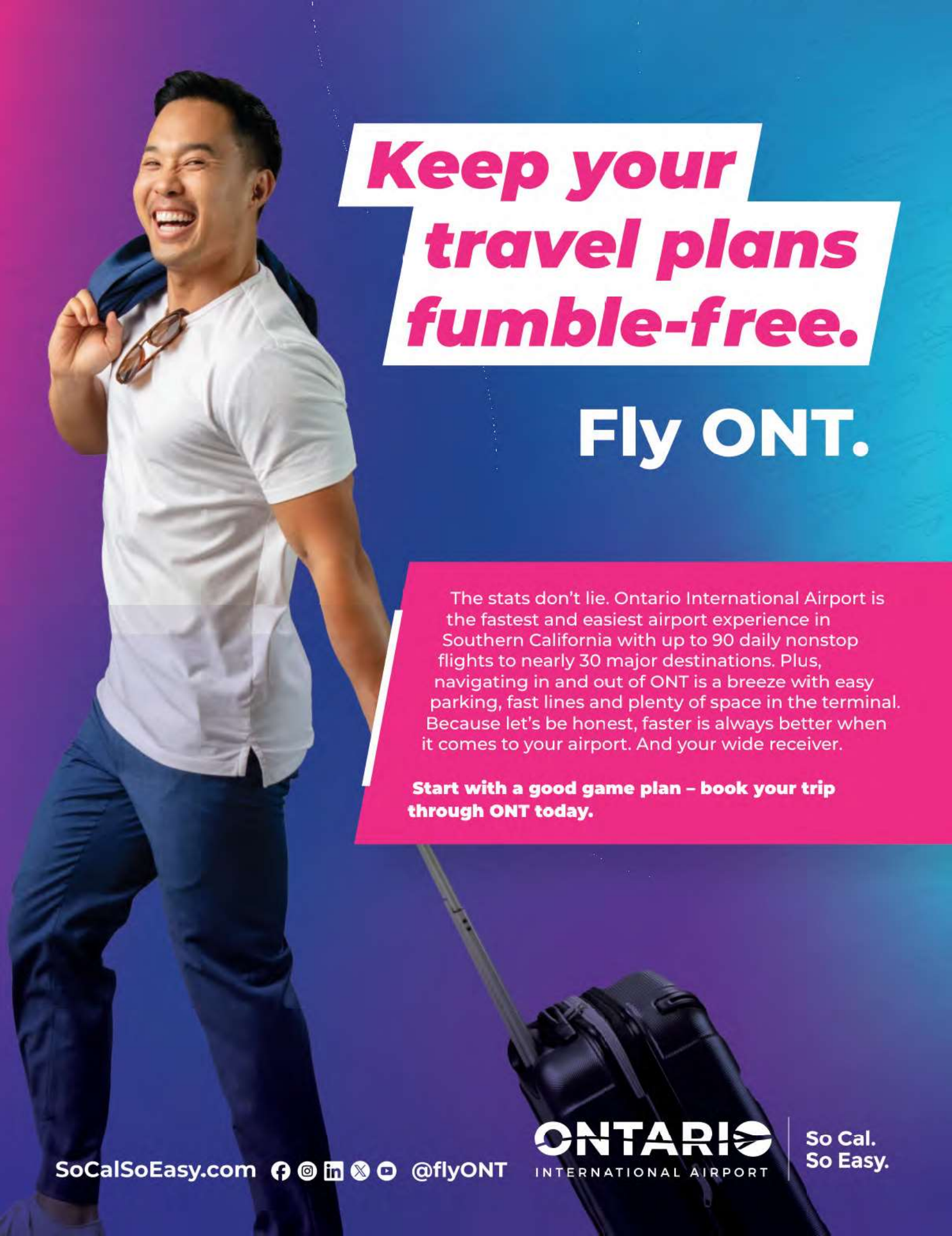
DL 91

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	302	8 YEARS	ALABAMA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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	313	5 YEARS	MICHIGAN STATE

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DL 92

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-5	292	2 YEARS	ALABAMA

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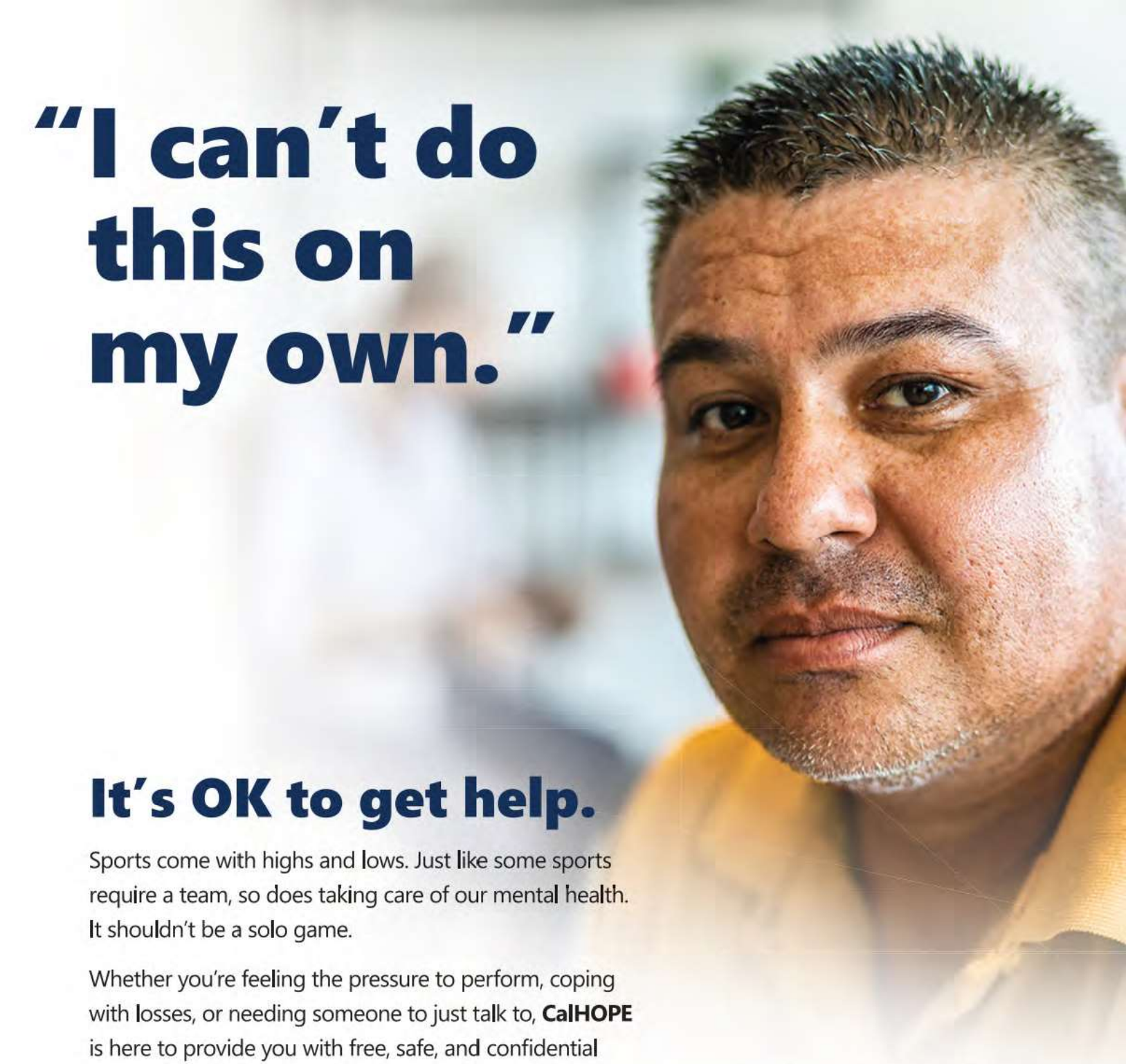
DT 99

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-1	340	ROOKIE	OREGON

"I can't do this on my own."



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Sports come with highs and lows. Just like some sports require a team, so does taking care of our mental health. It shouldn't be a solo game.

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Win or lose, you don't have to face it alone. Reach out for support. The **CalHOPE** team is waiting.

Find support now at **CalHOPE.org**

CalHOPE

"Mental health and physical fitness are intrinsically bound together. When we are healthy in mind and body, we are able to flourish in all aspects of our lives."

A message from (Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee) Ronnie Lott and California First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom, Co-Chairs of the ***Governor's Advisory Council on Physical Fitness and Mental Well-Being.***

The ***CalHOPE Courage Award*** *recognizes collegiate student-athletes who have overcome personal behavioral health challenges.*

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khalil MACK

OLB 52

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	269	12 YEARS	BUFFALO

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OLB 45

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	266	3 YEARS	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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OLB 48

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-4	269	11 YEARS	KENTUCKY

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caleb MURPHY

OLB 50

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	254	3 YEARS	FERRIS STATE

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OLB 54

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-5	254	ROOKIE	SOUTH CAROLINA

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LB 0

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-0	225	3 YEARS	WASHINGTON STATE

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LB 6

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
5-11	240	11 YEARS	MIAMI

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LB 43

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	225	6 YEARS	OREGON

marlowe WAX

LB 58

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-1	236	ROOKIE	SYRACUSE

tarheeb STILL

CB 29

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-1	196	2 YEARS	MARYLAND

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cam HART

CB 20

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-2	207	2 YEARS	NOTRE DAME

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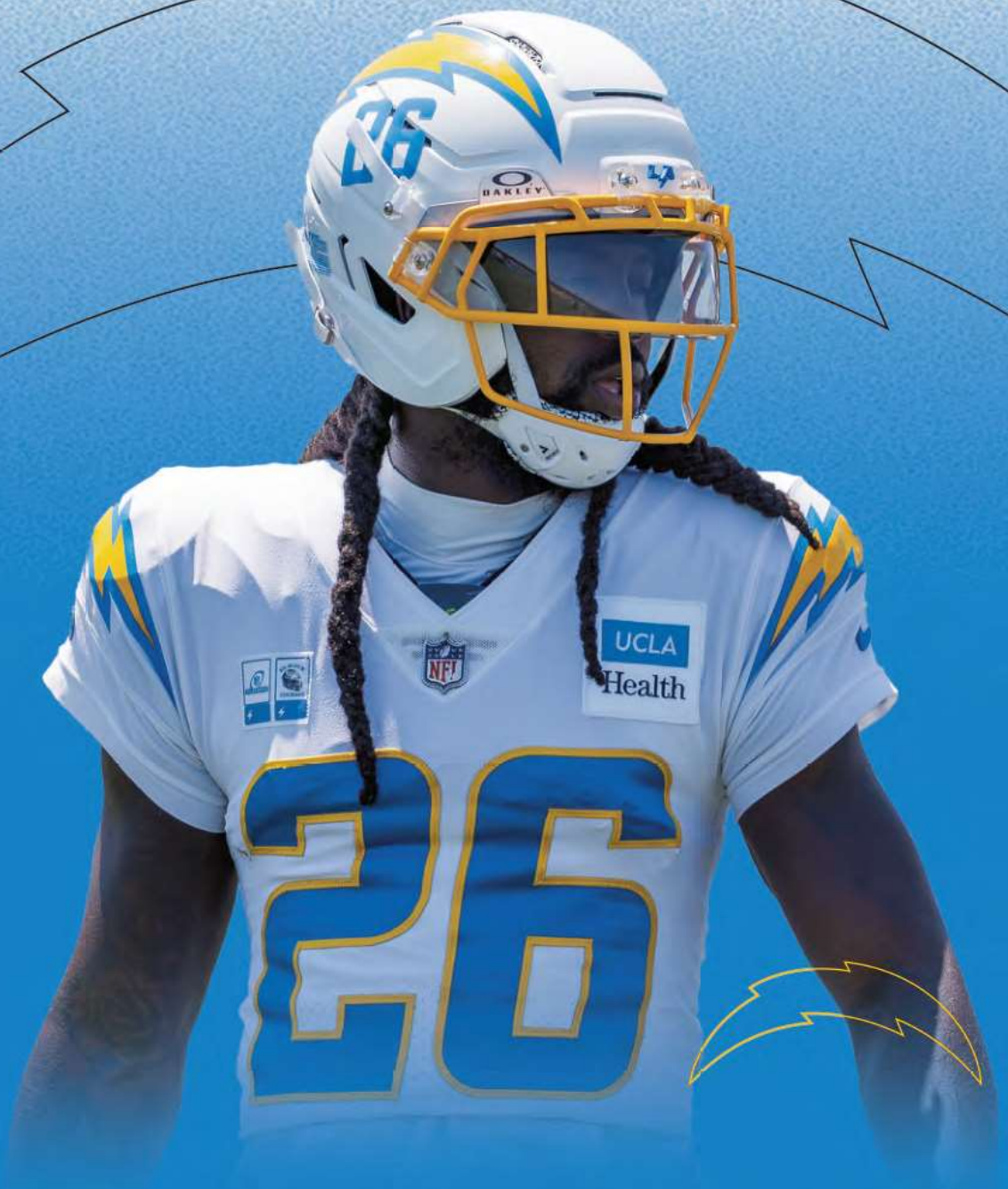
donte JACKSON

CB 26



HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
5-10	180	7 YEARS	LOUISIANA STATE

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CB 24

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-3	200	5 YEARS	MINNESOTA

KYLE KUZMA FAMILY FOUNDATION

OUR MISSION

The Kyle Kuzma Family Foundation is a non-profit that uplifts and empowers single mothers and their children, by providing the support they need to thrive.

OUR GOAL

We are committed to real impact, real help, and real change. Through a combination of financial assistance, resource programs, and collaboration with other like-minded organizations, we are working to remove the barriers that prevent people from accessing the help they need when they need it the most.

URGENT NEEDS WHEN IN CRISIS

- Eviction help
- Help escaping Domestic Violence Situations
- Tuition assistance

KYLE KUZMA DONATES $1M TO FLINT YMCA

NBA star Kyle Kuzma generously donated $1 million to the YMCA, helping bring to life a brand-new, state-of-the-art gymnasium — opened in May 2025! His incredible support is helping to build a stronger, healthier community for everyone.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- $50,000 in Single Mothers Auto Repair Assistance Program up to $1,000 each.
- Grants to other Foundations to help single Mothers with bills while they are fighting cancer.
- Step Forward Program at the YMCA -free teen memberships and financial literacy program.
- Braiding Project at the Genesee County Jail for women inmates to gain a certificate through the IGNITE program for hair braiding -a real second chance opportunity, and income generating skill to break the cycle and rebuild their lives in a positive manner.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Mother's Day

Back to School

Thanksgiving

Single Mothers Christmas Shopping Spree

Kuz's Golden Ticket Family Drive

For Corporate Sponsorship for the 2026 Kyle Kuzma Celebrity Golf Tournament in Miami, please contact info@kylekuzmafamilyfoundation.com

For more information or to make a donation go to: Kylekuzmafamilyfoundation.com

ja'sir TAYLOR

DB 36

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
5-10	185	4 YEARS	WAKE FOREST

GRIDIRON GREATS

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CIGARS

WITH THE STARS

-February 5, 2026-

For tickets and sponsorships, contact Karen Wright
KarenW@GridironGreats.org | 847-656-5487

ABOUT GRIDIRON GREATS

The Gridiron Greats Assistance Fund (GGAF) is a non-stock non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, providing financial grants and pro bono medical assistance to retired NFL players in dire need. The organization focuses on the humanitarian side of post-football related issues: social services to retired players who are in need due to a variety of reasons such as, inadequate disability and/or pensions.

We provide hands-on assistance to help retired players and their families deal with the hardships they face after football.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Medical assistance
- Transportation costs for medical evaluations and surgeries
- Housing assistance
- Financial assistance for utilities
- Medication
- Pro bono surgeries
- Coordination of services for food
- Automotive payments
- Childcare

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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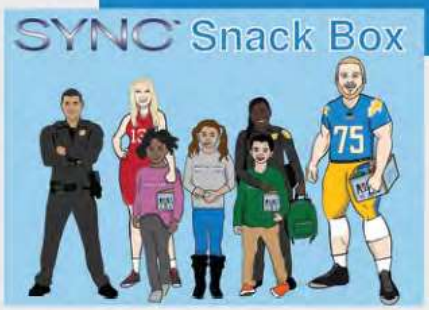
HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
5-10	180	ROOKIE	OREGON

THE BRADLEY & NIKKI BOZEMAN FOUNDATION™



The Bradley and Nikki Bozeman Foundation's mission is to provide much needed food, education, and opportunities to children living in underserved communities through the SYNC (Supporting Your Neighbors and Communities) Snack Program.

Community & Education

Impact & Food Assistance

The SYNC Snack Program consists of kid-friendly, shelf stable foods including easy open pasta cups, nutrigrain bars, mini cereal boxes, shelf-stable milk, fruit cups, pop tarts and more. This essential food is paired with QR codes placed on the back of the boxes that include academic help, after school programs, housing opportunities, and additional food resources. The SYNC Snack boxes are then put into the back of police cars for the officers to use as an olive branch to connect with kids on their routes.

The response we have received from not only the officers but the kids who are receiving these boxes is life changing. One little girl said she didn't know girls could be police officers and now she wants to be a police officer like Officer LaMonica so she can help feed kids too! Our goal with our SYNC Snack program is to change our community one box at a time!

If you would like to get involved or learn more

please scan the QR code to check out our website

Our Sponsors Who Make This Program Possible

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derwin JAMES JR.

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HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-2	215	8 YEARS	FLORIDA STATE

elijah MOLDEN

DB 2

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
5-10	192	5 YEARS	WASHINGTON

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MARCUS SMART'S
YGC
FOUNDATION
www.marcussmart.org

venmo

When Marcus Smart entered the NBA, he carried more than dreams of basketball success—he carried a mission. After losing his brother and mother to cancer, he knew how isolating hospital stays can be for kids and their families. That mission became the **YounGameChanger Foundation**, dedicated to bringing joy, connection, and opportunity to those who need it most.

One of its signature programs, the Smart Cart, is a mobile entertainment station with tablets, video games, and charging docks. These carts transform hospital rooms into hubs of fun and connection—helping kids feel like kids again. With support from partners like Aver, Lenovo, Nintendo, and Walmart, more than 30 Smart Carts are now in 16 hospitals across the country.

Marcus also surprises fellow athletes with carts donated to their local hospitals, including Ricky Rubio, Jaylen Brown, Ja Morant, and Josh Allen—most recently honoring Allen's work at Oishei Children's Hospital in Buffalo. "It doesn't matter if he plays football and I play basketball," Marcus says. "We're all in this together."

Beyond hospitals, the Foundation empowers youth through education, sports, and mentorship—donating supplies, hosting clinics, and connecting young people with leaders who inspire them to dream big. Marcus remains hands-on, visiting patients and families whenever he can: "Sometimes just saying hello is all they need to keep going."

The YounGameChanger Foundation continues to grow, helping children and families feel supported, inspired, and connected.

Fans and supporters can learn more about the Foundation and its programs at www.marcussmart.org

alohi GILMAN

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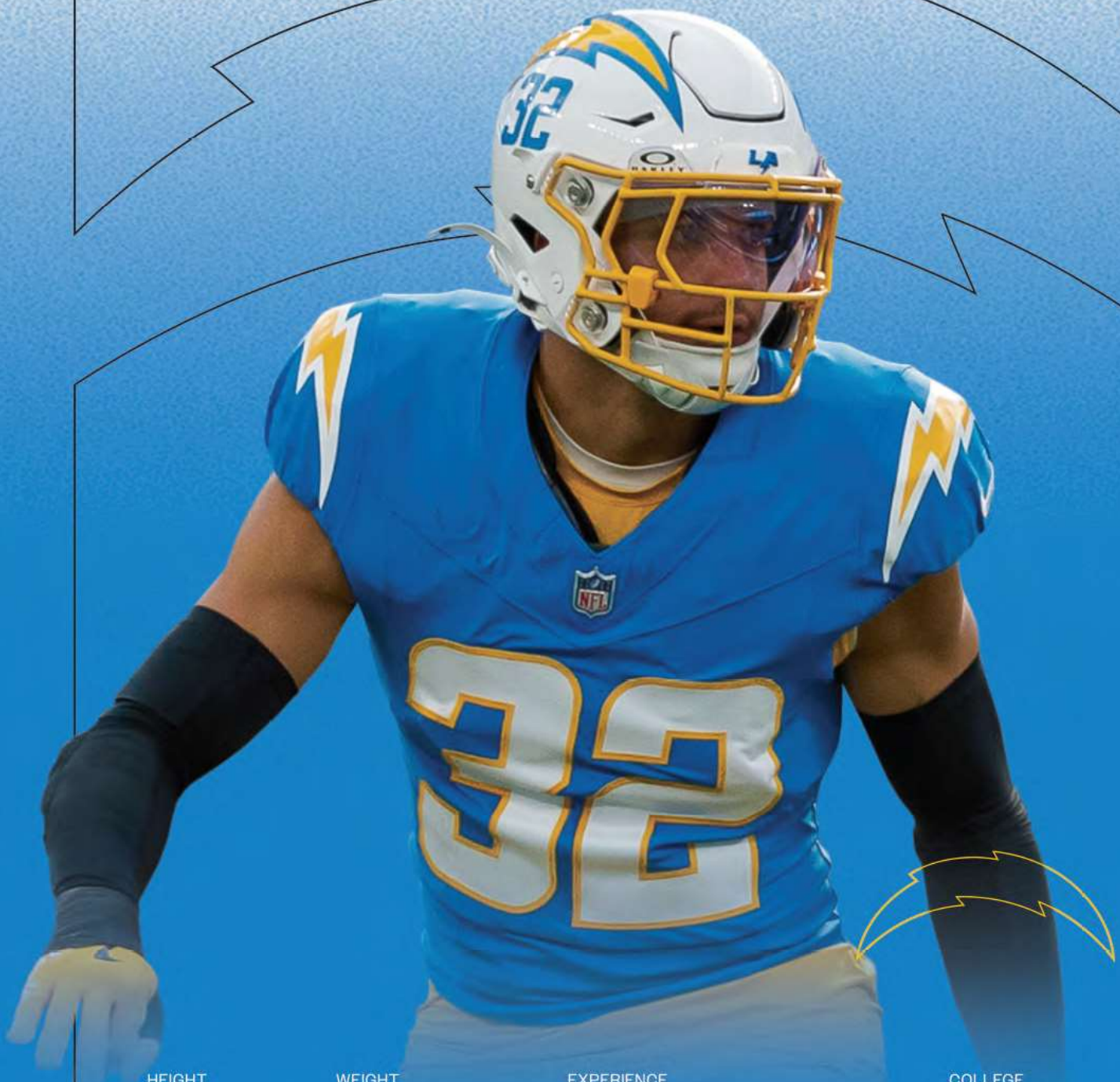

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
5-10	201	6 YEARS	NOTRE DAME

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team@allstarcode.org

rj MICKENS

S
27

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-0	210	ROOKIE	CLEMSON

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WE ARE WHAT THEY AREN'T

kendall WILLIAMSON

S
40

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-0	203	1 YEAR	STANFORD

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WHO WE ARE

MVP is a community that empowers and connects our members through various events, communication, and trusted resources. Our members are provided with an ecosystem of support so they are never alone!

WHAT WE DO

We reduce homelessness, suicide, improve health and wellness, and much more! Veterans and Athletes come together weekly for a formal physical training and peer to peer support session called, "The Huddle," at no cost to them! This allows them to rebuild themselves mentally, physically, emotionally.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We need your help to continue this mission! MVP has many sponsors and partners that help us operate and raise funds allowing our charity, a 501(c)3, to provide services and resources to enrich our members lives.

FIND AN MVP LOCATION NEAR YOU OR HELP US SET UP A NEW COMMUNITY CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA!

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Help us give a new team to our Nation's warriors and athletes.

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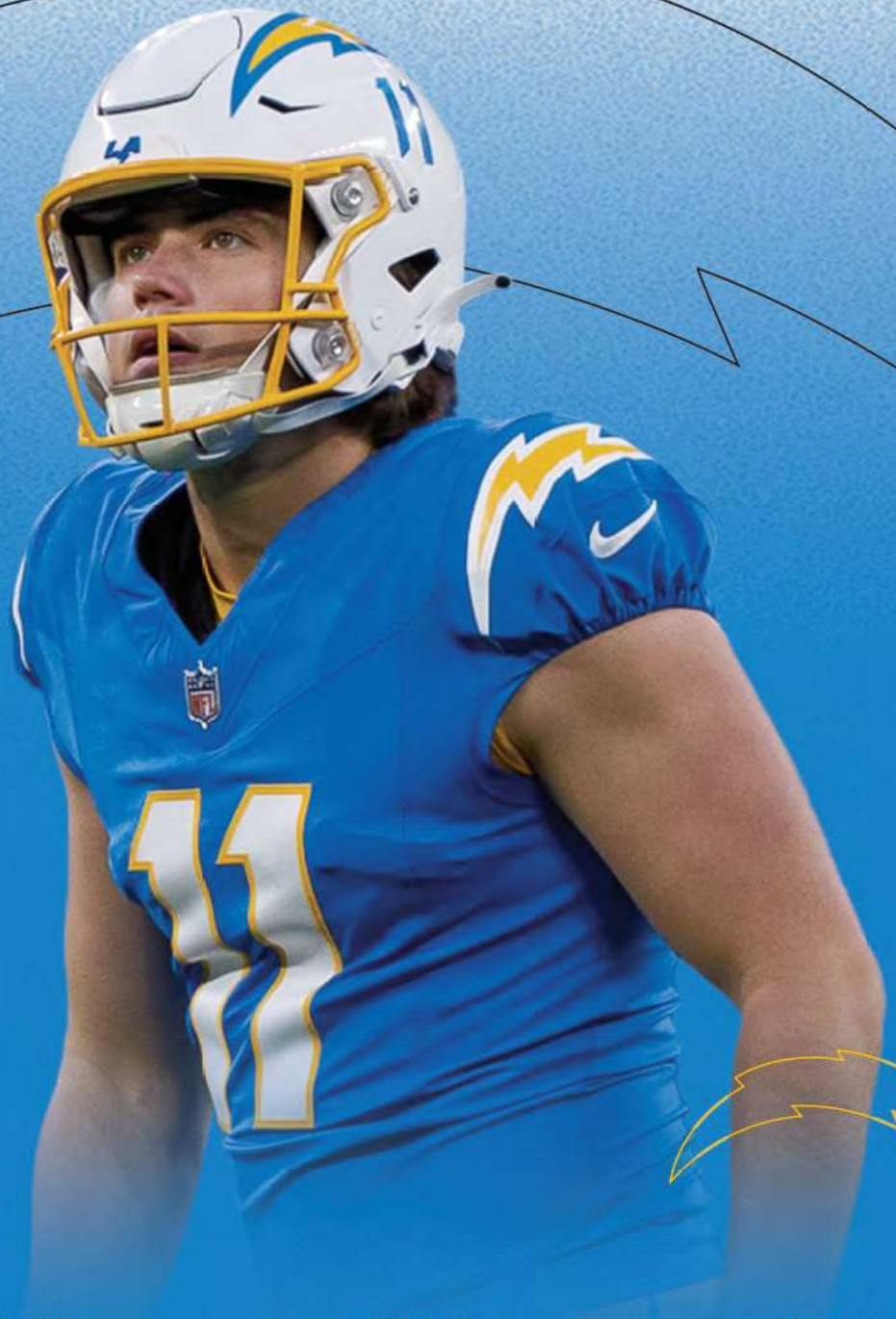

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-1	216	4 YEARS	TEXAS

HELPING OUR YOUTH PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

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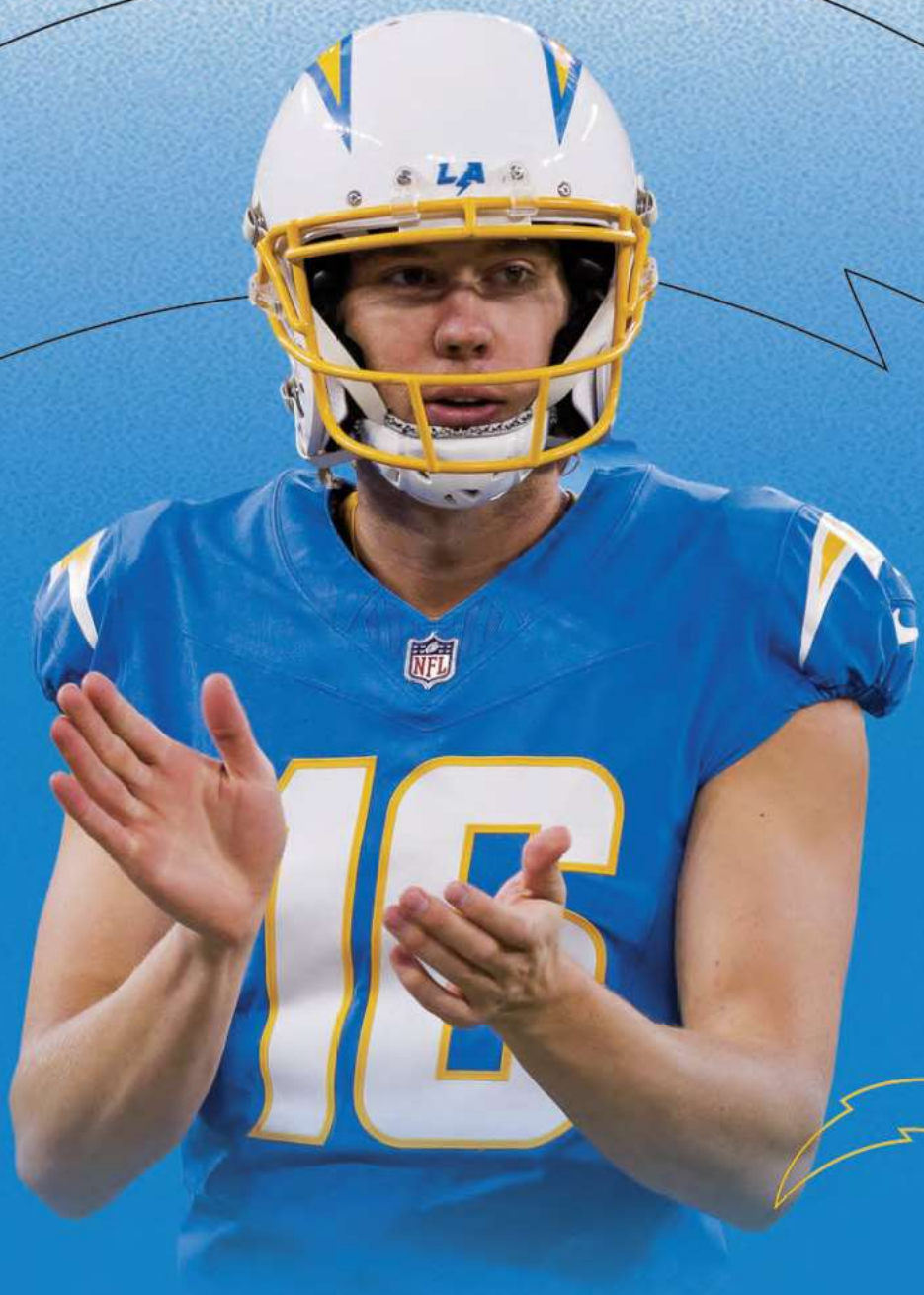


HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-5	208	7 YEARS	ALABAMA

josh HARRIS

LS 47

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	EXPERIENCE	COLLEGE
6-1	224	14 YEARS	AUBURN

CHARGERS BY THE DECADES

Ron Mix

Lance Alworth

1960s

THE CHARGERS WERE ACTUALLY BORN IN AUGUST 1959 WHEN BARRON HILTON AND FELLOW OWNERS AGREED TO FORM THE AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE, AN EIGHT-TEAM PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE THAT WOULD BEGIN PLAY IN 1960.

A contest was held to pick the team's name and Gerald Courtney of Hollywood, California, won a trip to Mexico City and Acapulco for coming up with the name Chargers.

Sid Gillman, who would be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1983, coached the Chargers in all but five games in the 1960s, while also serving as the team's general manager. The Chargers played the 1960 season in Los Angeles, competing at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. In 1961, Hilton relocated the Chargers to San Diego and from 1961-66, the Chargers played their home games at Balboa Stadium. The Chargers had a winning record in nine of the 10 seasons in that first decade and the team won five AFL West titles in their first six seasons, capturing crowns in 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964 and 1965.

The Chargers won the AFL Championship in 1963, defeating the Boston Patriots, 51-10, for the first championship in franchise history.

There were a number of key players responsible for the Chargers success of the 1960s. Paul Lowe returned the firstever kickoff in franchise history 105 yards for a touchdown and from 1960-68 he rushed for 4,972 yards and 38 touchdowns.

Hall of Fame wide receiver Lance Alworth, nicknamed "Bambi" for his effortless running style, played for the Chargers from 1962-70 and set a franchise record that still stands today with 9,584 receiving yards. Alworth's 493 career catches are fifth-most in franchise history and his 81 touchdowns rank second all-time behind Antonio Gates.

John Hadl was the Chargers quarterback for 11 seasons (1962-72) and he passed for 26,938 yards and 201 touchdown passes, a mark that heading into 2013 is second-highest in team annals.

Tackle Ron Mix, a Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee in 1979, anchored the Chargers offensive line for 10 seasons (1960-69), while Dick Harris, Charlie McNeil and Kenny Graham were key figures on a ball-hawking defense that intercepted 284 passes during the decade, including an NFL-record 49 in 1961.

HEAD COACHES OF THE 1960s:
Sid Gillman, 1960-69, 1971
Charlie Waller, 1969-70

1970s

FOR THE CHARGERS, THE ROARING 1960S GAVE WAY TO A TOPSY-TURVY DECADE DURING THE '70S. SID GILLMAN STEPPED DOWN DURING THE LATTER HALF OF THE 1971 SEASON AND FIVE DIFFERENT MEN COACHED THE TEAM DURING THE 1970S WITH STABILITY NOT TAKING HOLD UNTIL THE LEGENDARY DON CORYELL BECAME HEAD COACH IN 1978.

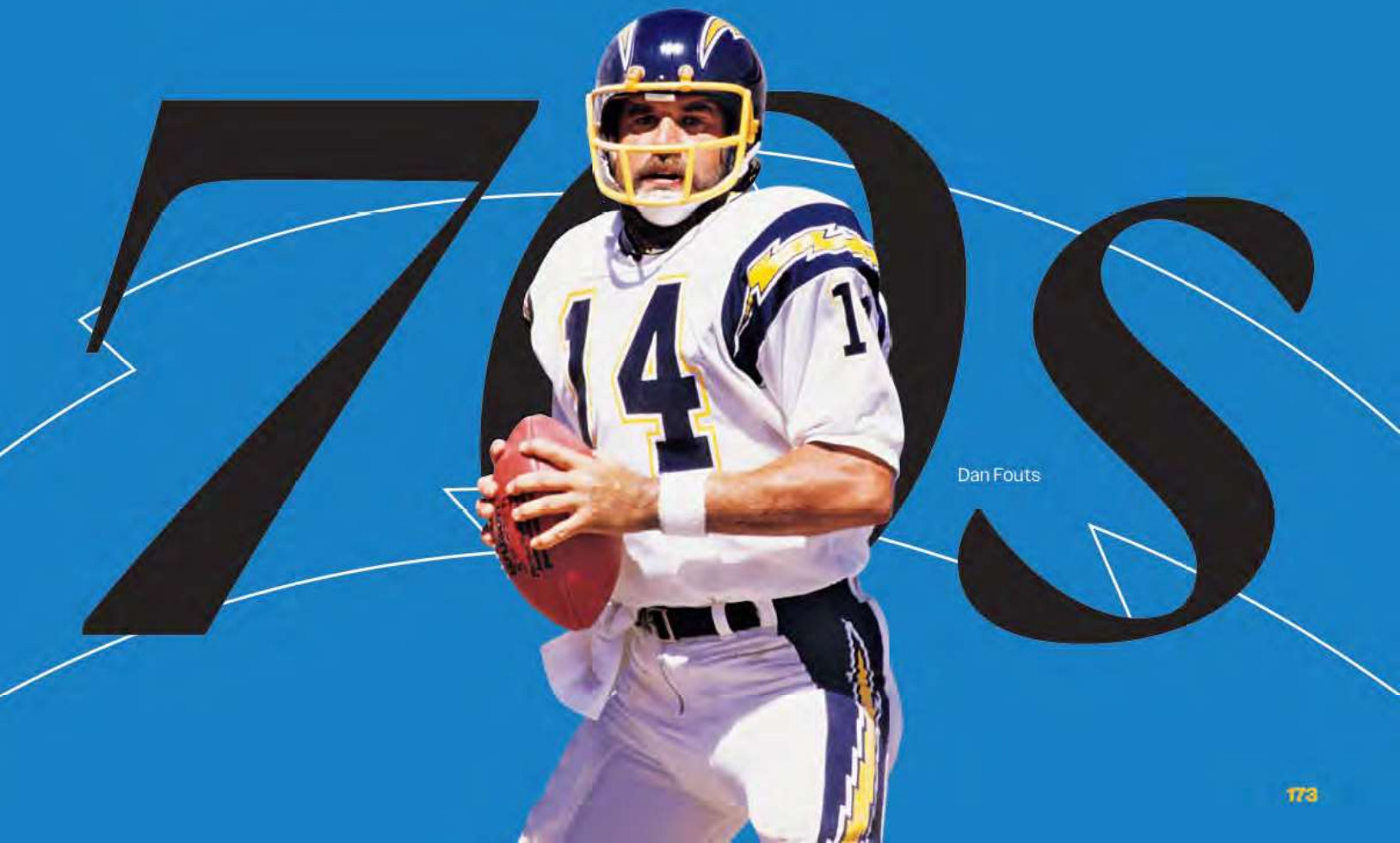
The '70s also marked a changing-of-the-guard at quarterback where John Hadl stepped out from under center and in stepped Dan Fouts, who began a Hall of Fame career with the Chargers in 1973. A third-round pick from Oregon in '73, Fouts struggled under head coaches Harland Svare, Ron Waller and Tommy Prothro before Coryell and his infamous "Air Coryell" offense began to take the league by storm five games into the '78 season.

In his first full season playing for Coryell in 1979, Fouts threw for 4,082 yards and, for the first time in his career, he didn't have more interceptions than touchdown passes. The Chargers won their first-ever AFC West title in 1979, their first playoff appearance in 14 seasons, and the team closed out the 1970s on a high note.

Fouts found a pair of go-to targets during that run in the late '70s in John Jefferson and Hall of Famer Charlie Joiner. Jefferson posted back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons from 1978-79 with 23 touchdowns, while Joiner posted the first of three-straight 1,000-yard campaigns with 1,008 yards in '79.

Defensively, even though sacks did not become an official NFL statistic until 1982, the Chargers assembled a defensive line known as the "Fearsome Foursome" and had one of the NFL's most ferocious front fours. The foursome featured Gary "Big Hands" Johnson, "Mean" Fred Dean, Leroy Jones and Louie Kelcher. Unofficially, those four men combined for 203 sacks during careers that began in the mid-70s and stretched into the early 80s.

HEAD COACHES OF THE 1970s:
Charlie Waller, 1969-70
Sid Gillman, 1960-69, 1971
Harland Svare, 1971-73
Ron Waller, 1973
Tommy Prothro, 1974-78
Don Coryell, 1978-86



Dan Fouts

1980s

THE "AIR CORYELL" ERA REALLY TOOK HOLD DURING THE 1980S AS THE BOLTS REGULARLY HOSTED AIR SHOWS RIVALED ONLY BY THE NEARBY MIRAMAR AIR BASE.

The Chargers won AFC West titles and advanced to the AFC Championship Game in both 1980 and '81 as Fouts threw for 4,715 yards and 30 touchdowns in 1980, followed by a team-record 4,802 yards and 33 touchdowns in 1981.

The 1980s also witnessed the birth of yet another Hall of Famer as tight end Kellen Winslow redefined his position, racking up 1,000-yard seasons in 1980, '81 and '83.

The 1980 and '81 seasons both featured epic playoff runs, but the team's run during the 1981 playoffs is regarded as one of the greatest postseasons in NFL history. It began with the 1981 AFC Divisional Playoffs when the Chargers outlasted the Miami Dolphins in overtime at the iconic Orange Bowl. The Chargers won the game on a 27-yard field goal by Rolf Benirschke 13:52 into the overtime period as players from both teams had to be helped from the field at the point of exhaustion.

Winslow really made a name for himself in that game, catching a game-high 13 passes for 166 yards and a touchdown, while also blocking a field goal at the end of regulation that sent the game into overtime.

Eight days later in a game that was dubbed the "Freezer Bowl," the Chargers lost to the Cincinnati Bengals when the temperature at kickoff in Riverfront Stadium was -9 degrees with a wind-chill factor of -59.

The following season, 1982, is one that is still remembered for the first of two work-stoppages during the 1980s. Players went on strike in 1982 after the second game of the regular season and the NFL schedule was reduced to nine games. The Chargers finished second in the AFC West and qualified for the playoffs, beating Pittsburgh in a Wild Card game before losing a rematch with Miami in the divisional playoffs.

That 1982 season marked an end of sorts for the Bolts as well as it would be the team's last postseason appearance of the decade.

The 1984 calendar year brought about big changes for the Chargers as Alex Spanos, one of the nation's leading developers of commercial real estate, bought the team from Gene Klein. Spanos fulfilled a lifelong dream when he purchased the team.

Coryell would coach the Chargers until the eighth game of the 1986 season, at which point he was replaced by Al Saunders, who was then replaced by Dan Henning in 1989. Many Chargers careers came to an end in the mid-1980s. Joiner retired after the 1986 season and Fouts and Winslow both concluded their Chargers careers after a second strike-shortened season in 1987.

HEAD COACHES OF THE 1980s:
Don Coryell, 1978-86
Al Saunders, 1986-88
Dan Henning, 1989-91

Charlie Joiner

Don Coryell

1990s

AFTER THE CHARGERS OPENED THE 1990S WITH 6-10 AND 4-12 SEASONS, SPANOS AND GENERAL MANAGER BOBBY BEATHARD MADE ONE OF THE MOST FORTUITOUS HIRES IN FRANCHISE HISTORY WHEN THEY REPLACED DAN HENNING WITH FORMER GEORGIA TECH HEAD COACH BOBBY ROSS BEFORE THE START OF THE 1992 SEASON.

Ross, who won a National Championship at Georgia Tech, immediately transformed the fortunes of the Chargers. Led by quarterback Stan Humphries, who was acquired from the Washington Redskins via trade and linebacker Junior Seau, an Oceanside, Calif. native who was the team's first-round pick in the 1990 NFL Draft, the Chargers won 11 of their final 12 games in 1992 after an 0-4 start and captured the first AFC West crown.

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LaDainian Tomlinson

Drew Brees

It set the stage for perhaps the greatest season in franchise history two years later.

The 1994 Chargers, led by Humphries, Seau and running back Natrone Means, took the football world by storm and advanced to Super Bowl XXIX in Miami after an improbable heart-stopping win over the Pittsburgh Steelers in the AFC Championship Game at Three Rivers Stadium. Linebacker Dennis Gibson's bat down of a Neil O'Donnell fourth-down pass sealed the Steelers fate and sent Chargers fans into a state of euphoria.

The team returned home that night from Pittsburgh and an impromptu celebration ensued in which more than 70,000 fans squeezed into every nook and cranny of the stadium.

The Chargers ultimately fell to the San Francisco 49ers, 49-26, in the Super Bowl, but it still brought about a level of excitement the city had never before experienced.

The Chargers reached the playoffs again in 1995, falling to Jim Harbaugh and the Indianapolis Colts, marking the team's final post season appearance of the 1990s and Ross was fired at the end of the 1996 season.

While the team struggled in the win-loss column during the late 90s, one consistent was Seau, who among numerous NFL honors was selected to the Pro Bowl every year from 1991-2002.

HEAD COACHES OF THE 1990s:
Dan Henning, 1989-91
Bobby Ross, 1992-96
Kevin Gilbride, 1997-98
June Jones, 1998
Mike Riley, 1999-01

2000s

THE TURN OF THE CENTURY BROUGHT ABOUT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE FRANCHISE, MOST NOTABLY A PARTING OF THE WAYS WITH HOMETOWN HERO AND LEGEND, JUNIOR SEAU.

Traded to Miami in 2003, new General Manager John Butler had set out to rebuild the Chargers and part of that included a trading of the future Hall of Famer to the Dolphins. The despair of losing one legend quickly waned however when after a 1-15 season in 2000, the Chargers made one of the most productive drafts in franchise history that featured running back LaDainian Tomlinson and quarterback Drew Brees, along with a new head coach in former Kansas City Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer.

Though the Chargers new regime got off to a bit of a rocky start, the team's fortunes turned in dramatic fashion in 2004 when Brees and company led the Chargers to a 12-4 season and the team's first AFC West title since 1994. Brees threw for more than 3,000 yards, and even more impressively, he tossed 27 touchdown passes and only seven interceptions. Tomlinson meanwhile rushed for over 1,300 yards and scored 17 touchdowns on the ground, while a young tight end named Antonio Gates, a converted college basketball player who had joined the Bolts in 2003 as an undrafted rookie free agent, got his own Hall of Fame career off to a tremendous start, leading the team with 81 catches, 964 yards and 13 touchdowns.

The Chargers' AFC West title in '04 set in motion one of the most successful eras in franchise history as the Chargers would continue on and win five division titles from 2004-09.

In 2006, Philip Rivers, acquired in a trade from the New York Giants in 2004, took over as the team's starting quarterback, and in 2007, Norv Turner replaced Schottenheimer as head coach but the Chargers hardly skipped a beat.

The Bolts won the AFC West in Rivers' first season as the starter with Tomlinson rushing for 1,815 yards and an NFL-record 28 touchdowns, and then in Turner's first season, he led the Chargers to the AFC Championship Game after playoff wins over the Tennessee Titans and the heavily-favored Indianapolis Colts.

The Chargers closed out the 2000s with two more AFC West titles as the offensive emphasis shifted to the passing game, with Rivers closing out the decade with a pair of 4,000-yard seasons.

Tomlinson left the Chargers after the 2009 season, but before doing so, he rewrote nearly every rushing record in team annals, including marks for career rushing yards, rushing touchdowns and yards from scrimmage.

HEAD COACHES OF THE 2000s:
Mike Riley, 1999-01
Marty Schottenheimer, 2002-06
Norv Turner, 2007-12

2010s

THE CHARGERS' RUN OF FOUR-STRAIGHT AFC WEST TITLES TO END THE 2000S CAME TO AN END, BUT THE TEAM'S RUN OF NON-LOSING SEASONS STRETCHED TO EIGHT AS THE CHARGERS WENT 9-7 IN 2010 AND 8-8 IN 2011. THE BOLTS MISSED THE PLAYOFFS BY JUST ONE GAME IN 2010 AND THEY TIED FOR THE DIVISION LEAD WITH DENVER AND OAKLAND IN 2011, BUT LOST A THREE-WAY TIEBREAKER TO THE BRONCOS.

In 2013, the Spanoses hired a new general manager (Tom Telesco and head coach (Mike McCoy). That duo set out to drastically overhaul the team's roster and the Chargers returned to the playoffs in 2013 after a 9-7 finish in the regular season.

The Chargers won four-straight to close out the 2013 season, including a dramatic 27-24 victory in overtime against the Kansas City Chiefs in the season finale to officially vault the Bolts into the postseason. The Chargers followed that victory over the Chiefs with a 27-10 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals in the AFC Wild Card Playoffs at Paul Brown Stadium.

Antonio Gates

A week later, the Chargers traveled to Denver to face the Broncos in an AFC Divisional Playoff game and the Bolts lost a heartbreaker by just seven points to the eventual AFC Champions.

The Chargers wrapped up the 2014 season with a 9-7 record. It marked the second year in a row that the Chargers won nine games under Head Coach Mike McCoy and the team's eighth winning season in 11 years.

In 2015, the Chargers concluded their season with a 4-12 record. The team was hit hard by injuries as 15 different players landed on the "Reserve-Injured" list and there were a total of 108 games missed by players who started the season on the opening day 53-man roster.

Despite the setbacks, the Chargers remained competitive as 12 of the team's 16 games were decided by eight points or less.

The Chargers' 2016 season was highlighted by victories over the defending Super Bowl-champion Denver Broncos and two division champions, the NFC South's Atlanta Falcons and the AFC South's Houston Texans.

There were many individual highlights along the way.

Derwin James Jr.

Casey Hayward led the NFL in interceptions. Joey Bosa led all rookies in sacks. Antonio Gates tied the NFL record for touchdown catches by a tight end. Philip Rivers continued to cement his standing as one of the NFL's top quarterbacks of all-time. And Melvin Gordon showed everyone why the Chargers drafted him No. 15 overall in 2015.

The Chargers couldn't fight through an eye-opening number of injuries. By the time the sun set on the 2016 season, 21 players resided on reserve, including a number of key contributors: Stevie Johnson, Keenan Allen, Jason Verrett, Brandon Flowers, Danny Woodhead, Branden Oliver, Manti Te'o and Brandon Mebane among them.

At the end of a 5-11 season, the team's first back-to-back losing seasons since 2000-01, the Chargers parted ways with Head Coach Mike McCoy.

Transition may have been the theme of 2017 for the Chargers as the team returned to Los Angeles for the first time since 1960 and did so with first-year head coach Anthony Lynn. With all that was at play in 2017, the Chargers finished 9-7, just missing out on their first playoff berth since 2013.

After a 0-4 start out of the gate, the Chargers came to form and rattled off nine wins in the remaining 12 contests of the season, including a five-game home winning streak. The nine wins over the 12-game span was the best mark since the team won the last 11 games of the 2009 season. The five straight home wins were also the best run on home turf since that 2009 season.

On top of some stellar individual performances, some key team components came together for the strong finish.

The Chargers orchestrated a huge turnaround on the defensive side of the ball as the Bolts ranked third in the league, allowing 17 points per game. The 17 points per game was the best mark by the team since 1992 and nearly a 10 points-per-game improvement from 2016.

The Chargers led the NFL in passing in 2017 with 4,431 net passing yards for 276.9 yards-per-game. Philip Rivers completed the season ranked second in the league with 4,515 total passing yards. Keenan Allen had a record-breaking season for the Chargers in 2017 en route to sweeping Comeback Player of the Year honors. Allen broke the Chargers' single-season receptions record, finishing fourth in the NFL with 102 catches. His 1,393 receiving yards was the second-most in a season in team history. Also etching his name in the record books was Antonio Gates. Gates surpassed Tony Gonzalez's mark for the most touchdown catches in NFL history by a tight end when he snagged his 112th during the Chargers' 2017 home opener against Miami. On the ground, Melvin Gordon tallied his first 1,000-yard season by totaling 1,105 yards to rank seventh in the NFL.

Defensively, Joey Bosa continued his ascent to stardom. In his 28 career games, he has compiled 23 sacks. His 12.5 sacks in 2017 were the most by a Bolt since Shawne Merriman posted 12.5 in 2007. Bosa became the fastest player to record 19 sacks as he accomplished the feat in his first 20 career games. In addition to Bosa's 12.5 sacks, Melvin Ingram equaled his career-high with 10.5 sacks. The 23 combined sacks were the most by a Chargers duo in the same season since 2006. The duo led the NFL with 151 pressures.

The Los Angeles Chargers took another step forward under the direction of head coach Anthony Lynn. The Bolts tied for the second best record in the AFC with a regular season mark of 12-4 and made their first playoff appearance since 2013.

The Chargers showed their resolve all season long with memorable come-from-behind victories and an impressive road record that demonstrated the chemistry of the 2018 squad. For their efforts, an NFL-best seven Chargers were selected to the 2019 Pro Bowl.

Of the 13 total wins on the year, eight were played outside of the Los Angeles area, including a 20-19 win against the Tennessee Titans in London, England.

The Bolts went on a roll on the road, winning all eight consecutively, before falling to the New England Patriots in the Divisional Round.

HEAD COACHES OF THE 2010s:
Norv Turner, 2007-12
Mike McCoy, 2013-16
Anthony Lynn, 2017-2020

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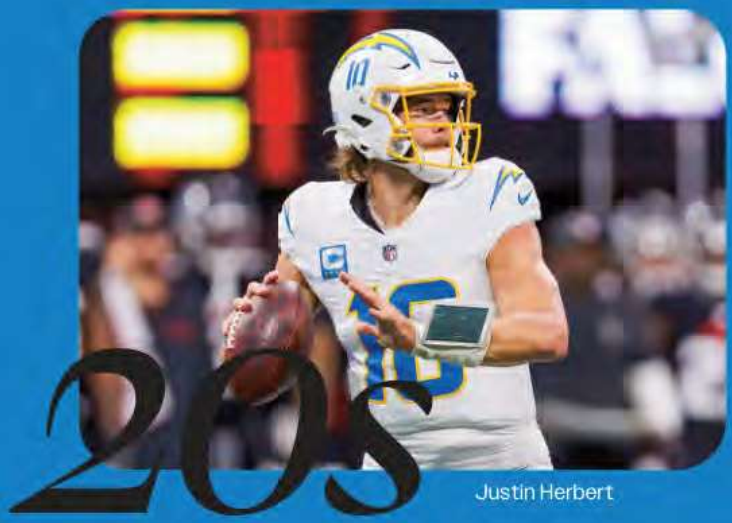
2020s

LOS ANGELES RALLIED IN THE FINAL STRETCH OF THE 2020 SEASON WITH FOUR CONSECUTIVE VICTORIES TO FINISH 7-9. THE CHARGERS BOASTED A FEW PLAYERS ADDING HARDWARE TO THEIR COLLECTION, INCLUDING PRO BOWL SELECTIONS FOR KEENAN ALLEN AND JOEY BOSA, WHILE JUSTIN HERBERT EARNED CONSENSUS ROOKIE OF THE YEAR HONORS.

Herbert, the No. 6 overall selection, put forth a record-setting rookie campaign, finishing as with the all-time rookie records for total touchdowns (36), passing touchdowns (31), completions (396), games with 300-plus passing yards (eight) and games with three-plus touchdowns (six). In the season finale at Kansas City, he became the youngest player in history to toss 30 touchdowns in a single season, doing so at 22 years, 299 days old.

Allen caught 100 passes for the third time in his career and behind a single-game team-record 16 catches in the Week 11 win against the Jets, posted the most receptions by a player



Justin Herbert

through the first 100 games of a career in NFL history (624). Despite missing time due to injury, Austin Ekeler was a scoring threat in the passing game, reaching 16 career receiving touchdowns to become the fourth running back ever to have at least 15 scoring grabs before turning 26-years old.

Defensively, Bosa posted 7.5 sacks on the year, including a three-game sack streak to start the season. He set single-game career highs with three sacks, six tackles for loss and five QB hits in Week 12 at Buffalo.

The Los Angeles Chargers went 10-7 in the 2022 regular season and made a postseason appearance for the first time since 2018. The team had two players — Derwin James Jr., and Khalil Mack — earn selections to the 2023 Pro Bowl Games, while James was also named a second-team All-Pro by The Associated Press.

The 2022 Chargers became the first team ever to have six players top 500 receiving yards and three touchdown catches. Justin Herbert continued to set records, as no player has more completions, passing yards or total touchdowns over the first three seasons of a career. Herbert is also the only quarterback in NFL history to begin a career with three consecutive seasons of 4,000-plus passing yards and one of two players ever to throw 25 touchdowns in each of their first three years.

Austin Ekeler led the NFL in touchdowns for the second-straight season, scoring 18 in the regular season and two in the postseason. His 20 touchdowns in the regular and postseason combined made Ekeler the seventh player in NFL history to register consecutive seasons with 20 or more touchdowns in the regular and postseason. He was named AFC Offensive Player of the Week for Week 17. Ekeler's 107 receptions set a single-season team record and tied for the second-most in a single season by a running back in history.

Drue Tranquill led the Bolts with 144 tackles (93 solo), while Derwin James Jr., earned AFC Defensive Player of the Month for November behind his 37 tackles, two sacks, two forced fumbles and interception during the month. The defense was among the NFL's best over the final five weeks of the regular season, ranking third in scoring, third total defense and fourth in passing defense over that span.

The special teams unit led the NFL in 2022 by allowing opponents to average just 3.1 yards per punt return, the lowest average allowed by a Chargers team in a single season since 1971. Despite deploying three different kickers on the year, the unit made 31-of-33 field goals for a 93.9 field goal percentage, which ranked No. 2 in the NFL and led all AFC teams. Dustin Hopkins (Week 6), Cameron Dicker (Week 9) and JK Scott (Week 12) each won AFC Special Teams Player of the Week, while Dicker was also named AFC Special Teams Player of the Month for December/January.

The Chargers went 5-12 in the 2023 season, leading to changes in the front office and at head coach.

CHARGERS EMBRACE FRESH START WITH HARBAUGH, HORTIZ

The Bolts entered a new era in 2024 by hiring Head Coach Jim Harbaugh and General Manager Joe Hortiz. Harbaugh, who played quarterback for the Chargers in 1999 and 2000, returns to the NFL after nine years in the college ranks. He led Michigan to a national title during the 2023 season. Hortiz spent 26 seasons in Baltimore's front office.

CHARGERS MAKE PLAYOFFS IN HARABUGH'S 1ST YEAR

The Chargers thrived in Harbaugh's first season by winning 11 games and making the playoff as a Wild Card team. Khalil Mack, Rashawn Slater and Derwin James Jr. all earned Pro Bowl honors while the latter was also a Second-Team All-Pro. Wide receiver Ladd McConkey shined to set rookie single-season marks for catches (82) and receiving yards (1,149) while adding seven touchdowns in 2024.

HEAD COACHES OF THE 2020s:
Brandon Staley, 2021-2023
Giff Smith, Interim, 2023
Jim Harbaugh, 2024-Present

retired NUMBERS

14 DAN FOUTS
Jersey Retired: 1988
Chargers HOF: 1977
NFL Hall of Fame: 1978

18 CHARLIE JOINER
Jersey Retired: 2023
Chargers HOF: 1993
NFL Hall of Fame: 1996

19 LANCE ALWORTH
Jersey Retired: 2005
Chargers HOF: 1977
NFL Hall of Fame: 1978

21 LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON
Jersey Retired: 2012
Chargers HOF: 2015
NFL Hall of Fame: 2017

55 JUNIOR SEAU
Jersey Retired: 2012
Chargers HOF: 2011
NFL Hall of Fame: 2015

80 KELLEN WINSLOW
Jersey Retired: 2023
Chargers HOF: 1995
NFL Hall of Fame:2023

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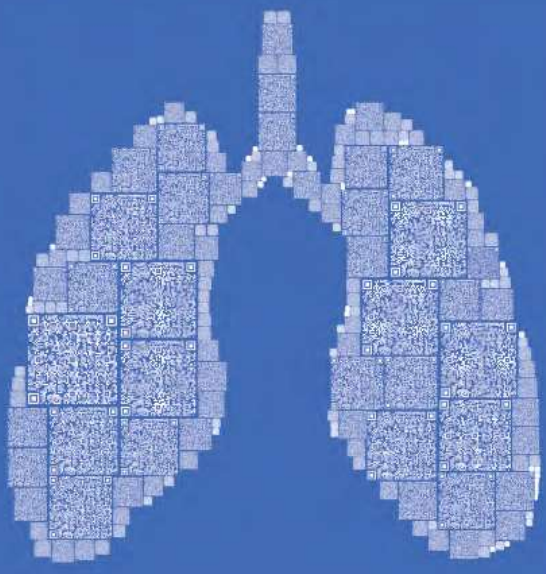

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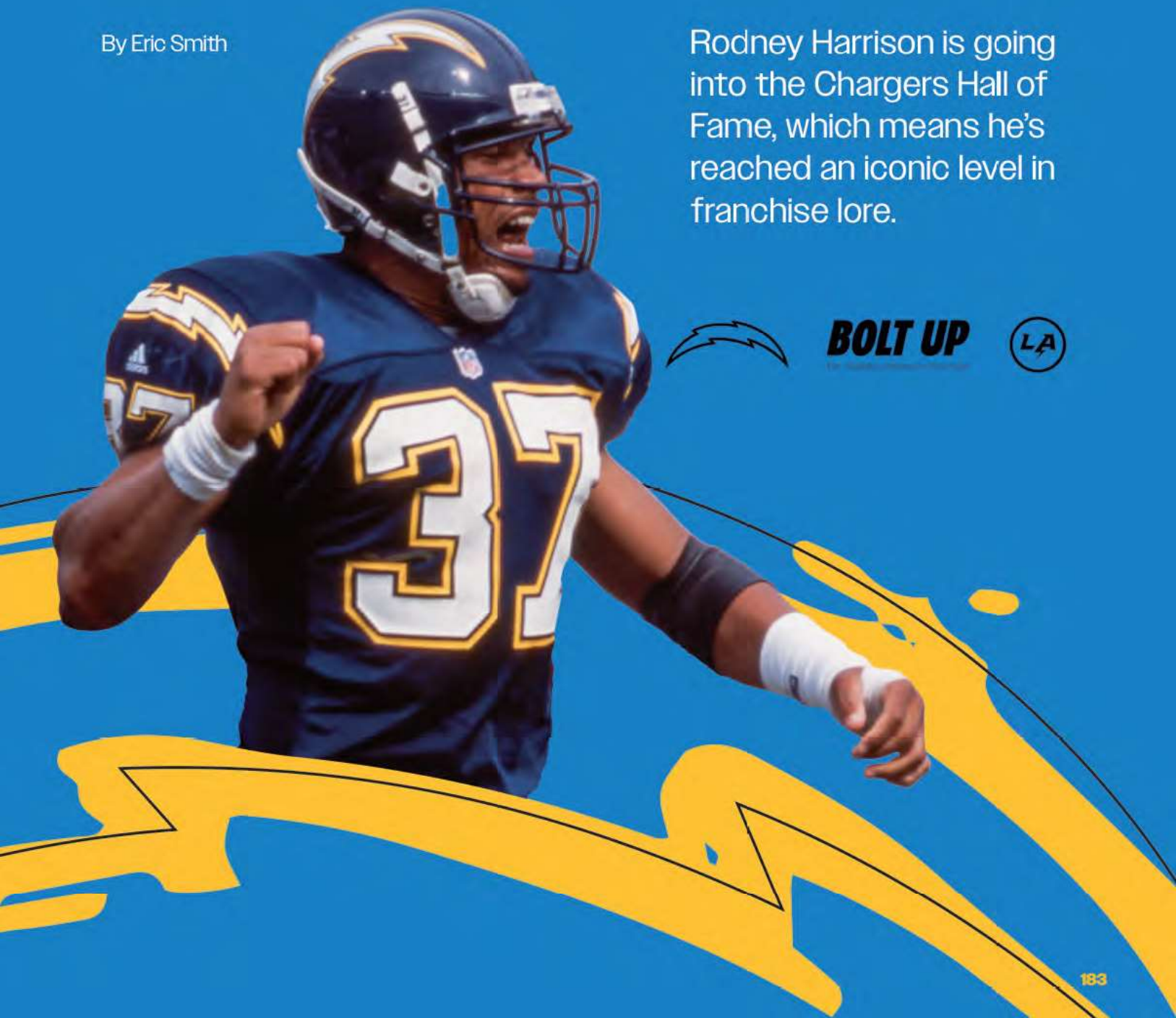
2025 CHARGERS HALL OF FAME HONOREE

RODNEY HARRISON

By Eric Smith

Rodney Harrison is going into the Chargers Hall of Fame, which means he's reached an iconic level in franchise lore.



BOLT UP

But while Harrison is the 36th player honored (and 44th overall member), he is the first safety to make the exclusive club.

"What it comes down to is respect," Harrison said. "They don't vote you into this caliber of a place unless they respect you and unless they respect your hard work.

"It's not about name or about money, you can't buy your way into this," Harrison continued. "People have to respect your game and your work ethic and your reputation. And I appreciate it. I really do."

He later added: "Not that I was waiting on this, but it was just a really pleasant surprise knowing that I gave everything to that organization and that I was heavily involved in the community. I loved that place. I loved my experiences there and my time there. It was terrific."

The Chargers will honor Harrison at half-time of their Week 8 home game against the Vikings on Thursday Night Football. He will also be recognized with a plaque on the Chargers Walk of Fame outside of The Bolt.

Harrison was surprised with the news from Chargers Head Coach Jim Harbaugh on FaceTime this summer.

"I'm looking at Coach Harbaugh because he had said he wanted to have a conversation with me about leadership," Harrison said. "So, there was a certain level of deception that was there.

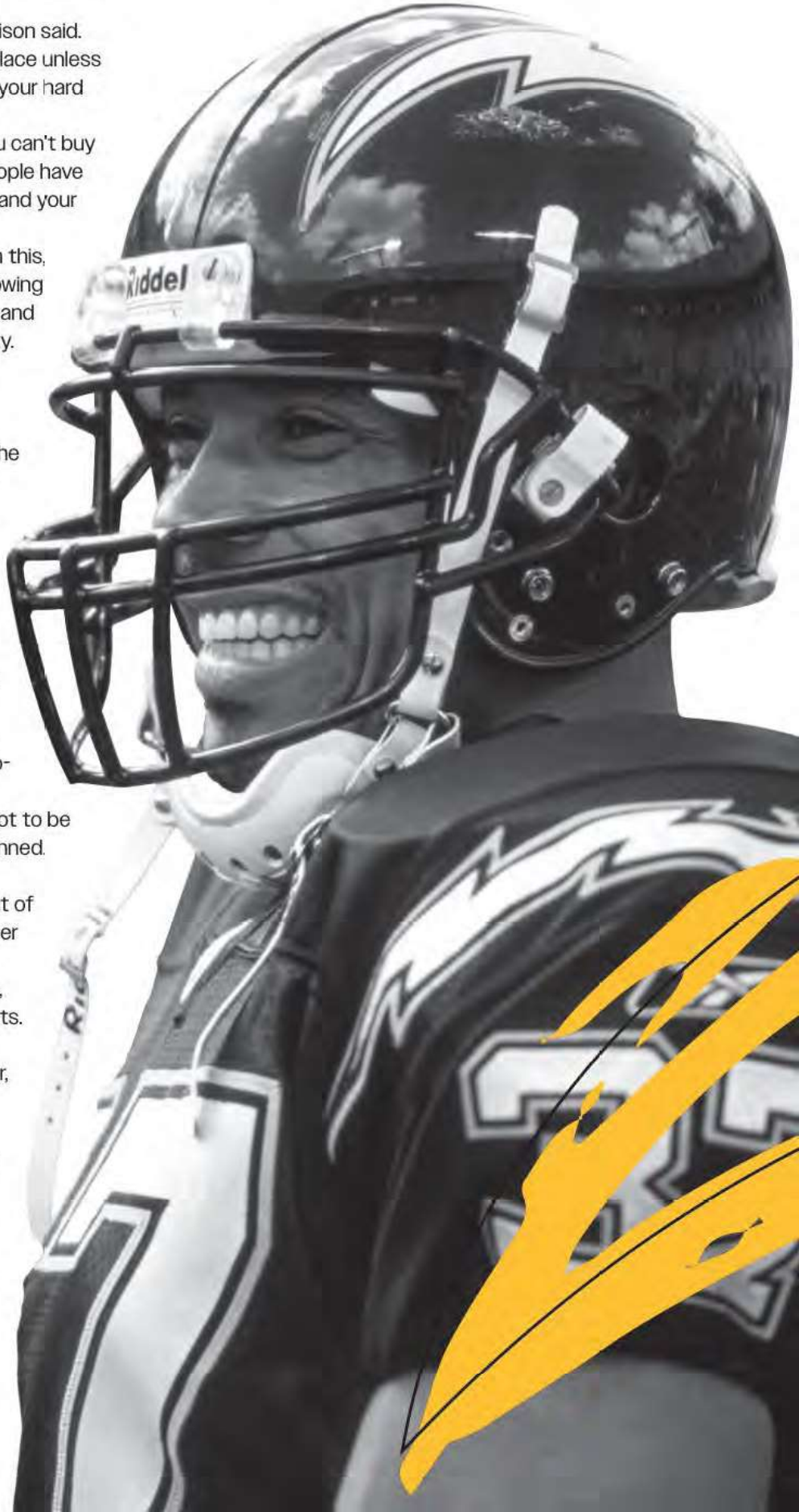
"But when he told me I was like, 'You've got to be kidding me!" Harrison added. "I was just stunned. They got me really good."

Harrison, a 1994 fifth-round draft pick out of Western Illinois, helped the Bolts reach Super Bowl XXIX as a rookie.

He played nine seasons for the Chargers, appearing in 123 career games with 97 starts. He was a two-time Pro Bowler with the Bolts and earned a First-Team All-Pro honor, too.

"I have to thank the Spanos family and [former Chargers General Manager] Bobby Beathard, rest his soul, for believing in me and giving me an opportunity," Harrison said.

Teammates voted him as the Chargers Defensive Player of the Year four times in his career and he was also named to the franchise's 40th and 50th-Anniversary All-Time teams.



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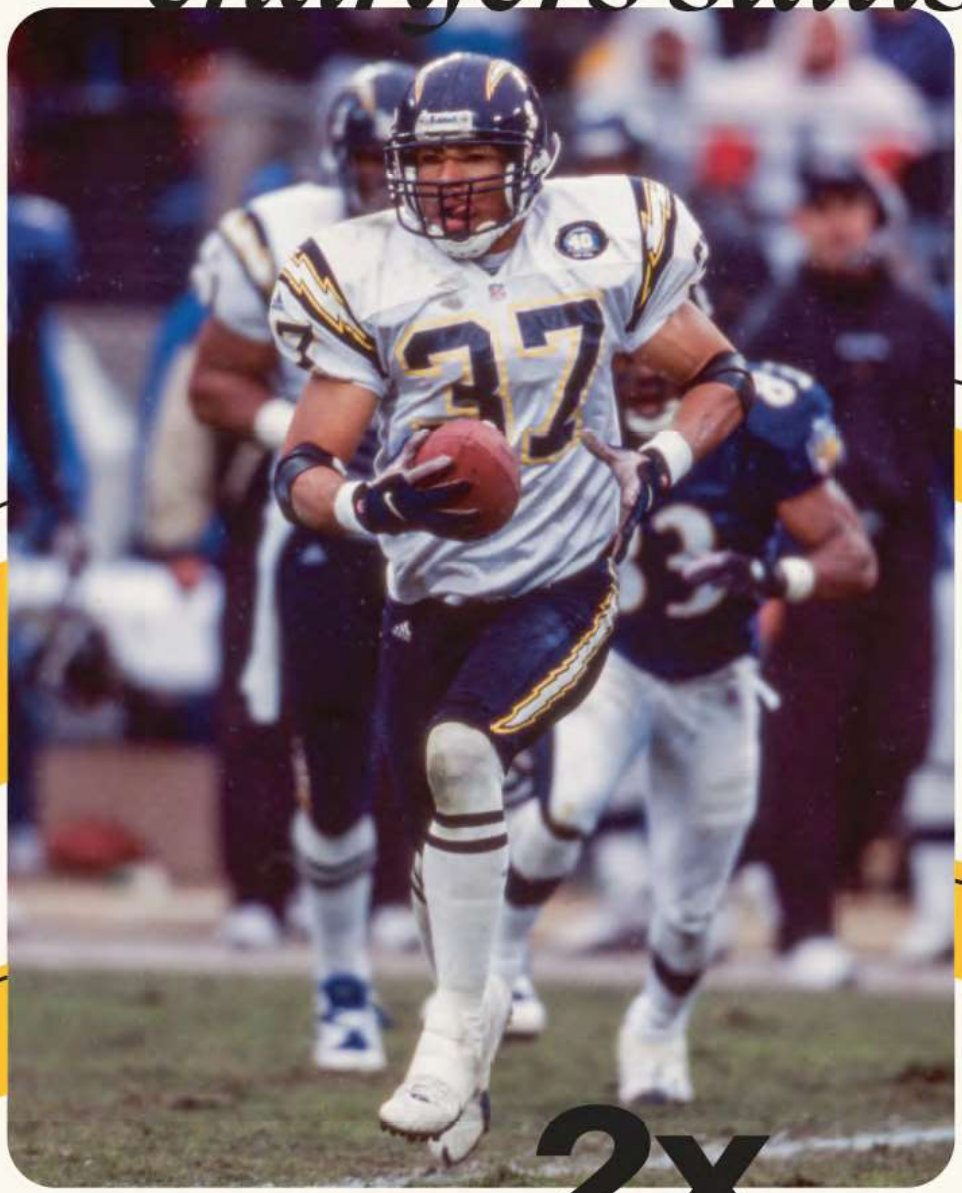
26 INTERCEPTIONS
4 TOUCHDOWNS

chargers statistics



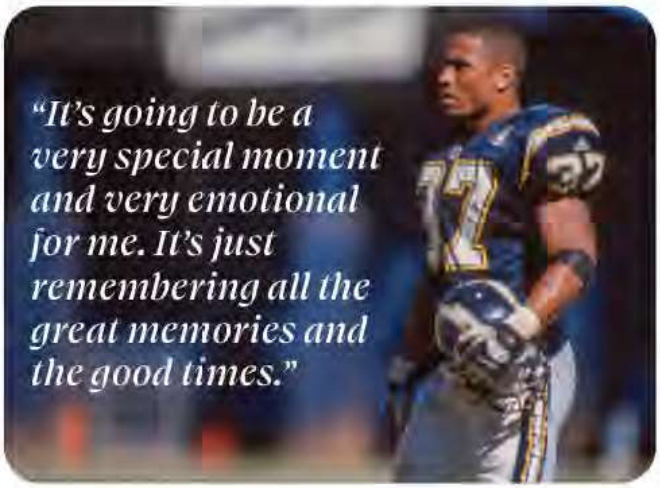
2x
pro bowls

"Rodney personified an era of Chargers football defined by physicality, emotion, relentless effort, toughness and grit," said President of Football Operations John Spanos. "For nearly a decade, he gave everything he had to the Chargers, establishing a standard of accountability and setting the bar for competitive greatness.

"The fire that burned inside Rodney was the stuff of legend and, as is the case with all the great ones, it never once faded over the course of his career," Spanos added.

All in all, Harrison tallied 760 total tackles with the Bolts to go along with 26 interceptions, which is third all-time and the most by a safety in team history.

Harrison also added 21.5 sacks (the best mark by a Chargers defensive back), plus eight forced fumbles, seven fumble recoveries, 22 tackles for loss and 46 passes defensed.


"It's going to be a very special moment and very emotional for me. It's just remembering all the great memories and the good times."

Oh yeah, he also scored three defensive touchdowns, including a pair of pick 6s. And he added a kickoff return for a score, too.

In 1997, Harrison became the first player in league history to score touchdowns on an interception return, fumble return and kickoff return in the same season.

Not bad for a guy who didn't start a single game on defense during his first two seasons in the league.

"The guys in front of me were older and more experienced ... but I felt like my time was going to come," Harrison said. "I just kept getting stronger, kept studying the playbook, understanding what you have to do just in case there's an injury.

"And then take advantage of all your special teams opportunities. I led the team in special teams tackles as a rookie," Harrison added. "Every game there are tons of opportunities to make plays on special teams. And that's what I did."

And even though Harrison didn't make any starts in 1995, he made a notable impact with a team-high five interceptions.

"The second year, they started playing me a little but more on defense," Harrison said. "I ended up having five interceptions as a safety that came in on third downs at the deep safety position. It was just a gradual growth."

Harrison's breakout season came in 1998 when he earned First-Team All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors.

He finished with 114 total tackles (one behind Junior Seau for the team lead) and added three interceptions, 4.0 sacks and a forced fumble. Harrison earned an Approximate Value metric of 14 on ProFootballReference.com, which measures a player's overall value. It was the highest mark of his career.

"They just let me play," Harrison said with a laugh. "I didn't like coaches putting restrictions on me.

"My whole life, that's what people tried to do and tried to hold me back," Harrison continued.

"They tried to tell me I was too small and that I wasn't good enough," Harrison added. "And I said, 'OK, I'm going to show you.' That's what pushed me and really brought out that dog in me, it was people doubting me."

Harrison now joins a legendary group that features some of the biggest names in team history.

The 52-year-old recently said it's surreal to join a club that features former teammates such as Seau and LaDainian Tomlinson.

"When I came in, Junior was the standard I always tried to reach. Junior was my mentor, he was my hero. I tried to emulate Junior Seau," Harrison said.

"And when LT came in, I thought LT was the most humble first-round draft choice that I've ever met," Harrison continued. "The kid worked his [butt] off and he was just so soft spoken but just a great, great player and a tremendous person.

"To join my guys, man, I couldn't be happier," Harrison added.

Harrison also recognizes that this honor is about more than him, too, as he credited those close to him for their unwavering support throughout his career.

"I reflect and I am very grateful for all the people — my wife, my mom, my brother, my family — for supporting me," Harrison said. "And I'm extremely proud of myself for all the hard work I put in and the sacrifices that I made."

Harrison said he can't wait for the celebration at SoFi Stadium.

"It's going to be a very special moment and very emotional for me. It's just remembering all the great memories and the good times," Harrison said.

"It means a lot," Harrison added.

LA CHARGERS

HALL OF FAME

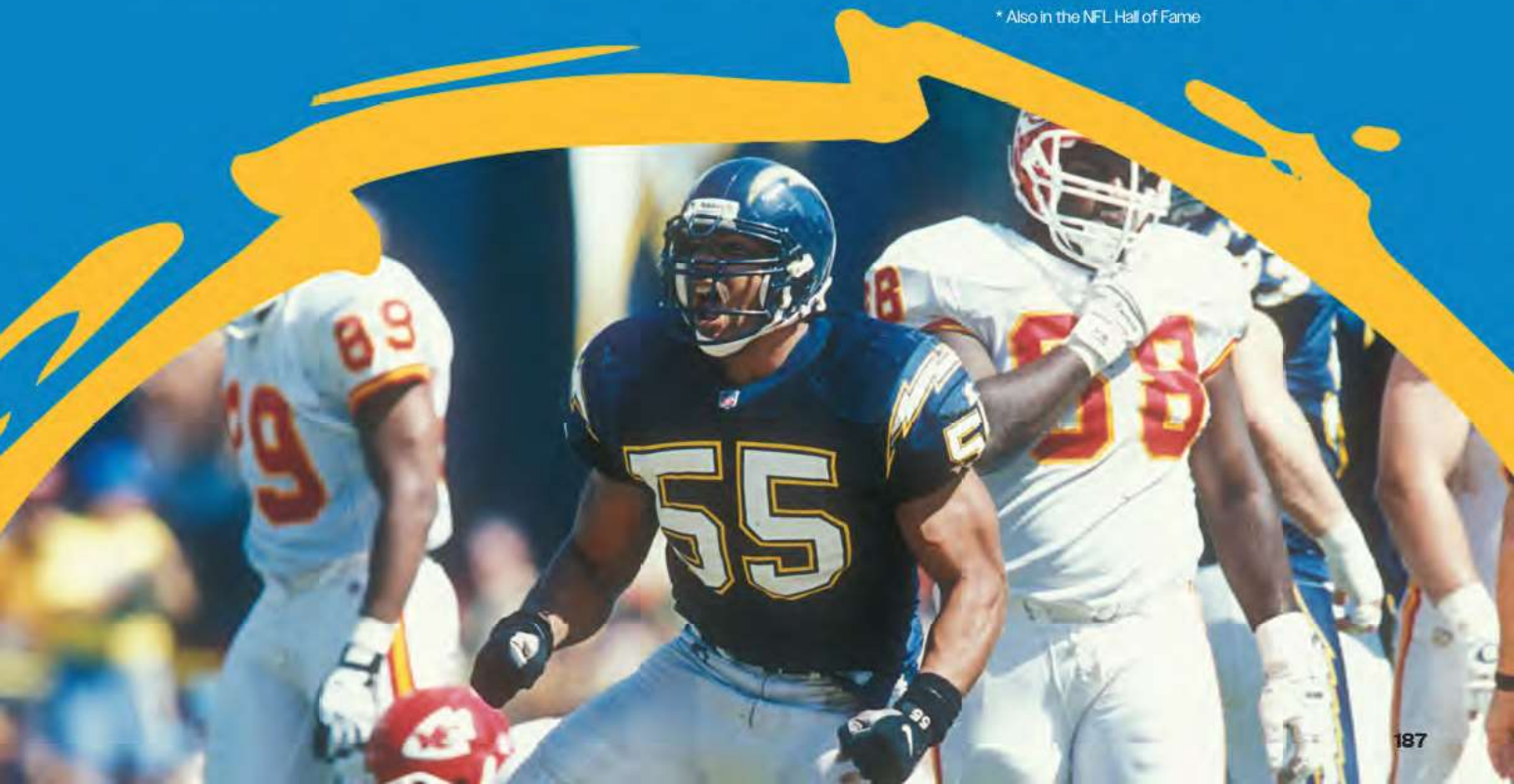
The Chargers Hall of Fame honors the best of the best: players, coaches and contributors who have distinguished themselves above all others in the history of the franchise. Ten of the 39 members of the Chargers Hall of Fame are also enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

In order to be inducted into the Chargers Hall of Fame, the player must have had a distinguished career with the Bolts and be retired from the NFL for a minimum of four seasons.

1977 **LANCE ALWORTH*,** WR, 1962-70
1978 **RON MIX*,** OT, 1960-69
1979 **PAUL LOWE,** RB, 1960-68
1980 **KEITH LINCOLN,** RB, 1961-66, '68
BARRON HILTON, MAJORITY OWNER, 1960-66
1981 **ERNIE LADD,** DT, 1961-65
WALT SWEENEY, G, 1963-73
1983 **JOHN HADL,** QB, 1962-72
1984 **CHUCK ALLEN,** LB, 1961-69
1985 **GARRY GARRISON,** WR, 1966-76
SID GILLMAN*, Head Coach, 1960-69, '71
1986 **EARL FAISON,** DE, 1961-66
1993 **DAN FOUTS*,** QB, 1973-87
1993 **CHARLIE JOINER*,** WR, 1976-86.
1994 **DON CORYELL,*** HEAD COACH, 1978-86
1995 **SPEEDY DUNCAN,** CB, 1964-70
RUSS WASHINGTON, OT, 1968-82
KELLEN WINSLOW*, TE, 1979-87
1996 **GEORGE PERNICANO,** MINORITY OWNER, 1961-present
1997 **ROLF BENIRSCHKE,** K, 1977-86
1998 **GILL BYRD,** CB, 1983-92
1999 **GARY "BIG HANDS" JOHNSON,** DE, 1975-84
2000 **DOUG WILKERSON,** OL, 1971-84
2001 **WES CHANDLER,** WR, 1981-87
2002 **STAN HUMPHRIES,** QB, 1992-97
BOBBY ROSS, HEAD COACH, 1992-96
2003 **LOUIE KELCHER,** DT, 1975-83
2004 **DON MACEK,** C, 1976-89
ED WHITE, G, 1978-85
2008 **FRED DEAN*,** DE, 1975-81
2011 **JUNIOR SEAU*,** LB, 1990-02
2012 **DARREN BENNETT,** P, 1995-03
2014 **LESLIE O'NEAL,** DE, 1986, 1988-95
2015 **LaDAINIAN TOMLINSON*,** RB, 2001-09
2018 **BOBBY BEATHARD*,** GM, 1990-99
2022 **JAMAL WILLIAMS,** DT, 1998-09
2023 **ANTONIO GATES*,** TE, 2003-18
2024 **ALEX AND FAYE SPANOS,** MAJORITY OWNER, 1984-2018
2025 **RODNEY HARRISON,** S, 1994-02

HONORARY MEMBERS
(inducted posthumously)
1976 **FRANK BUNCOM,** LB, 1962-76
EMIL KARAS, LB, 1960-64, '66
BOB LARABA, LB, 1960-61
JACQUE MACKINNON, TE, 1961-69

* Also in the NFL Hall of Fame



PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
CANTON, OHIO

LANCE ALWORTH, WR

Inducted: 1978
In 11 pro seasons, he caught 542 passes for 10,266 yards, an 18.94-yard average and 85 touchdowns ... During his nine seasons with the Chargers averaged more than 50 catches and 1,000 yards per season ... Was named All-AFL seven straight years from 1963 to 1969 and played in the league's last seven All-Star games ... Caught a pass in 105 straight games.

RON MIX, T

Inducted: 1979
During his 10 years with the Chargers he was assessed for only two holding penalties ... Was an All-AFL selection eight times as a tackle and once as a guard, and played in eight AFL All-Star games and five of the first six AFL title games ... Unanimously chosen for the AFL's all-time team in 1969.

SID GILLMAN, COACH

Inducted: 1983
Coached for 18 seasons with a career record of 123-104-7 ... Chargers won divisional crowns five of the league's first six seasons and the AFL title in 1963 ... Became the foremost authority on forward passing offense ... Was the first coach to produce divisional champions in both the National and American Football Leagues.

DAN FOUTS, QB

Inducted: 1993

In 15 seasons, completed 3,297 passes for 43,040 yards and 254 touchdowns and an 80.2-point rating ... At retirement, was one of only three quarterbacks to pass for more than 40,000 yards ... Led the NFL in passing yardage four straight years from 1979 to 1982, and became the first player in history to throw for 4,000 yards in three consecutive seasons ... 1982 NFL MVP ... Six-time Pro Bowler ... All-Pro 1979, 1982 and 1985.

KELLEN WINSLOW, TE

Inducted: 1995

Amassed 541 receptions for 6,741 yards and 45 touchdowns in just nine National Football League seasons ... In 1984, set a personal record with 15 receptions in a game against the Green Bay Packers ... At time of his retirement, Winslow ranked fifth among active receivers and 14th among all NFL pass-catchers ... A consensus All-Pro in 1980-82.

CHARLIE JOINER, WR

Inducted: 1996

Averaged 16.2 yards per catch and accounted for 12,146 yards and 65 touchdowns on his receptions in 18 seasons ... Ranked sixth in career reception yardage ... During his 11 years in San Diego, caught 50 or more passes seven times and had 70 or more receptions three seasons ... An All-NFL pick in 1980 and a Pro Bowl choice three times.

FRED DEAN, DE

Inducted: 2008

Was named to four Pro Bowls (1980-1982, 1984) and selected All-Pro twice (1980-1981) ... The sack did not become an official NFL statistic until 1982, his career sack total would stand near 100 ... Set a then NFL record six sacks in one game ... Played on five division winners ... Played in three NFC championship games and in two of San Francisco's Super Bowl victories ... Earned all-conference honors four times – twice with the Chargers and twice with the 49ers.

JUNIOR SEAU, LB

Inducted: 2015

Played 268 career games ... Recorded 10 or more tackles in a regular season game 64 times amassed 56.5 career sacks and intercepted 18 passes ... Also recovered a fumble for a touchdown and had two pass receptions during his career ... NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1992 by UPI and Football Digest ... Also named to the NFL's All-Decade Team of the 1990s. Player.

LADAINIAN TOMLINSON, RB

Inducted: 2017

All-Pro 4 straight seasons (2004-07) ... Voted to 5 Pro Bowls over 6-season span ... Rushed for 13,684 career yards on 3,174 carries and scored 145 rushing touchdowns ... Added 4,772 yards on 624 catches and 17 TD receptions ... Named to NFL's All-Decade Team of 2000 ... Captured back-to-back rushing titles, 2006-07 ... Named NFL's 2006 Most Valuable Player.

BOBBY BEATHARD, GM

Inducted: 2018

His teams won 10 division titles, seven league/conference championships and four Super Bowls – Super Bowls VII and VIII with Miami and Super Bowls XVII and XXII with Washington ... Was hired as general manager of the Chargers in 1990 ... In just his third season in San Diego, the organization won its first AFC Western Division championship in more than a decade and by 1994, the team made its first Super Bowl appearance.

DON CORYELL, COACH

Inducted: 2023

Coryell, a member of the Chargers Hall of Fame, was hired as the team's head coach in 1978 and immediately led the team to its first winning season since 1969. In the following seasons, Coryell led the Chargers to four division championships (including The Epic in Miami), three straight division titles (1979-81) and four consecutive trips to the playoffs (1979-82). After 14 seasons as an NFL head coach, Coryell posted a 111-83-1 record, making him the only coach in history to win 100 games at both the professional and collegiate levels.

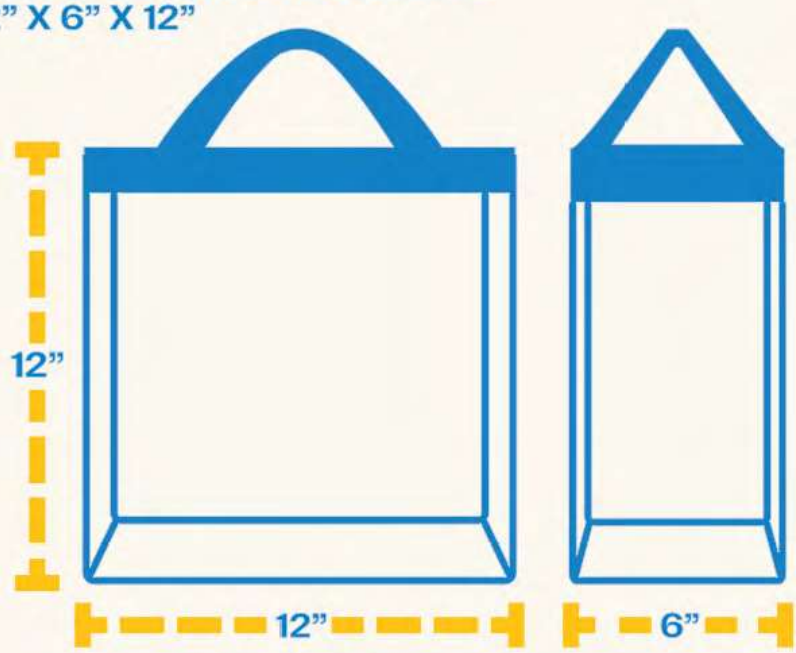
ANTONIO GATES, TE

Inducted: 2025

Perhaps the most prolific tight end of all-time, Gates is regarded as one of the best to ever play the position. Gates' 116 career touchdown catches are the most by a tight end and also rank seventh all-time in NFL history. He also compiled 93 red-zone touchdowns. His 955 career receptions and 11,841 receiving yards are both Chargers records and rank fourth among all tight ends. Simply put, Gates revolutionized the tight end position as he earned eight Pro Bowls nods and was named an All-Pro five times, including three First-Team selections.

CLEAR BAG POLICY

CLEAR TOTE NOT TO EXCEED
12" X 6" X 12"



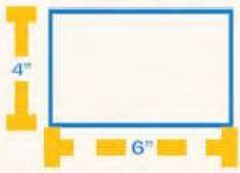
OR

ONE GALLON RE-SEALABLE CLEAR PLASTIC STORAGE BAG

OR

SMALL CLUTCH NOT TO EXCEED 4" X 6"

*DOES NOT NEED TO BE CLEAR



PERMITTED ITEMS

BINOCULARS
No case permitted

CAMERAS
3.5" lens or shorter

APPROVED BAGS
See Clear Bag Policy

MEDICAL ITEMS
Including breast pump and supplies

WATER BOTTLES
Factory sealed 20 oz max; limit 2 per person

SEAT CUSHION
No pockets, zippers, compartments or metal

BANNERS AND SIGNS

Please adhere to the following guidelines pertaining to banners and signs:

- Can be no larger than 3' X 5'.
- Guests are encouraged to exercise good discretion in selecting banners and signs and banners and signs must be event-related. Venue Management reserves the right to prohibit or permit.
- Cannot be commercial, obscene, offensive, or political in nature.
- May not be affixed or hung anywhere within the Venue.
- May not be displayed in a manner that obstructs the views of other fans, scoreboards, videoboards, digital or other screens, stages or advertising signage.
- Must be made of paper or lightweight cloth-like material.
- Cannot have a support or carrying pole, stick, rod, etc., unless made of soft, bendable plastic and under 2' in length (i.e. giveaway stick flags).
- Cannot be battery-operated or contain lights.

Signage not permitted will be disposed of by Venue Management or security unless the guest wishes to return it to their vehicle. All signs are subject to final approval by Venue Management.

PROHIBITED ITEMS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO

- Bags that do not adhere to the NFL Clear Bag Policy
- Alcohol
- Beverage containers, sports bottles, spray bottles
- Guns, knives, any item used as and considered a weapon
- Balloons, beach balls, inflatable objects
- Boomerangs, frisbees, sports balls
- Chains, sticks (including selfie sticks)
- Fireworks, flammable objects
- Laser pointers, stun guns, water guns
- Lawn furniture, coolers
- Mace, pepper spray
- Musical instruments, noise making devices
- Roller blades, scooters, skates
- Umbrellas
- Strollers (can be checked at the bag valet locations prior to entry for a nominal fee at bag valet locations)

All items are subject to search and may not be admitted. For more information visit NFL.COM and SOFISTADIUM.COM.

SoFi Stadium

SEATING MAP

CHARGERS.COM

radio NETWORK

AM 640 / AM 570

As the Chargers' flagship English-language radio partner, iHeartMedia Los Angeles will again air all regular season and postseason Chargers games on ALT 98.7 — Los Angeles' New Alternative — complete with a two-hour pregame and one-hour postgame show.

Additionally, specially designated regular and postseason games will be simulcast on AM570 LA Sports as part of the partnership extension.

Throughout the regular and postseason, players, coaches and Chargers personalities will appear in regularly-scheduled segments Monday through Friday on AM 570 LA Sports.

matt "money" SMITH

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Matt "Money" Smith enters his ninth season handling the play-by-play duties for the Chargers radio broadcast team.

A fixture on the Los Angeles sports scene for more than two decades, Smith is a co-host of the 'Petros and Money Show' on AM 570.

He has also co-hosted the Chargers Weekly, the in-house podcast of the Bolts, since 2020 and provides interviews and analysis with players, coaches and guests all year long.

Smith has also handled play-by-play responsibilities for Compass Media Network's coverage of NFL, NCAA football and NCAA basketball games since 2010. Additionally, Smith has also done television play-by-play for the Pac-12 Network and NFL on FOX.

Smith hosted AM 570's Los Angeles Lakers pregame. Halftime and postgame shows from 2005 to 2009. He was also a part of the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame morning program 'Kevin and Bean' on KROQ 106.7 FM in Los Angeles from 1995 to 2005.

daniel JEREMIAH

ANALYST

Daniel Jeremiah, a former NFL scout who spent a combined eight seasons with three NFL teams prior to joining NFL Network in 2012, continues to partner with play-by-play announcer Matt "Money" Smith and sideline reporter Shannon Farren as the color analyst on ALT 98.7's Chargers game broadcasts.

A 2000 graduate and three-year starter at quarterback for Appalachian State University, Jeremiah began his NFL career as a personnel assistant with the Baltimore Ravens scouting department in 2003. He was promoted to area scout in 2005.

Jeremiah joined the Cleveland Browns as a national scout prior to the 2007 season before eventually serving as a West Coast scout for the Philadelphia Eagles from 2010 to 2012.

Currently the lead draft analyst for NFL Network, Jeremiah is also a regular contributor on all NFL-based platforms offering an Xs-and-Os look at players, teams and league-wide trends. The El Cajon, CA native also plays a vital role on numerous NFL Network programs such as Path to the Draft and is the co-host of the 'Move the Sticks Podcast' alongside Bucky Brooks.

shannon FARREN

SIDELINE

Shannon Farren is back for her eighth season as the sideline reporter for Chargers radio broadcasts. She provides in-game updates and analysis from the thick of the action on the Bolts sideline.

She also hosts 'The Gary and Shannon Show' on KFI from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Before the show debuted in 2015, Farren spent 15 years reporting on news and sports in Sacramento, Seattle and Los Angeles.

BOLT UP BOLT UP BOLT UP

spanish radio NETWORK

FM 105.5 / FM 94.3

In 2020, Que Buena 105.5/94.3 FM (KBUE) was announced as the new flagship Spanish-language radio broadcaster of the Chargers. It is owned and operated by Estrella Media, and will broadcast all preseason, regular season and postseason Chargers games, including pre and postgame shows. Throughout training camp and the regular and postseason, players, coaches and Chargers personalities will appear in regularly scheduled segments.

adrian GARCIA-MARQUEZ

PLAY-BY-PLAY

Emmy Award-winning broadcaster Adrian Garcia-Marquez enters his fifth consecutive season in the Chargers booth after also serving as the team's Spanish-language commentator in the mid-2000's.

A fixture in the Southern California sports landscape for more than 20 years, Garcia-Marquez recently crossed over to English as he became the voice of the new MLS franchise, San Diego FC on KFMB and iHeart Radio, where he also hosts a midweek show.

Garcia-Marquez is also currently the lead play-by-play voice for FOX Deportes' coverage of the NFL and MLB, where he's called 11 World Series, 16 All Star Games and three Super Bowls. He also was recently one of the featured announcers for MLS on Apple TV. Garcia-Marquez has also done plenty of boxing as he's been on the call for multiple championship fights for Top Rank and Fox. The multifaceted play-by-play man also has two Olympics under his belt as a basketball and soccer broadcaster for Telemundo including the call for Gold Medal games.

As one of the leading bilingual broadcasters in the country, he's called international soccer such as Nations League for CBS/ Paramount, Club World Cup action on DAZN, as well as Copa Libertadores, Gold Cup, Liga MX and Mexican National Team broadcasts on Fox Sports. Prior to that, Garcia-Marquez spent six seasons calling Lakers basketball racking up multiple awards including four Southern California Sports-Broadcaster Association Awards for best 'TV Play-by-Play.'

The San Diego native has also called Dodgers and Angels baseball games, Clippers, LAFC and Galaxy soccer, as well as USC football games and college basketball.

francisco PINTO

ANALYST

A native of Concepcion, Chile, Pinto lends his talents in the radio booth to serve as the color analyst for the Chargers Spanish-language radio team for a sixth season.

Pinto's long and illustrious career in television and radio spans more than 20 years as he remains a popular on-air personality in Los Angeles.

Pinto won the 2012 and 2015 NBA Broadcasting Award for Best Live Call and also took home a 2013 Los Angeles Area Emmy Award for Live Sports Coverage for the contest between the Lakers and Raptors on December 8 of that season. Prior to joining the Lakers broadcast team, Pinto spent 12 years with KMEX-TV, Univision's LA affiliate, where he was a sports anchor for seven years before switching to news and becoming a host on the station's morning newscast, Primera Edición.

Pinto has covered many of the biggest sporting events in the world, including two World Cups (2002 and 2006) and several NBA Finals, Super Bowls, World Series and world-title boxing matches.

BOLT UP BOLT UP BOLT UP

PRESEASON

WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	NETWORK
HOF	Thu. Jul. 31	@Lions	5:00 pm	NBC
1	**SUN. AUG. 10**	**SAINTS**	**1:05 pm**	**CBS2 LA / Estrella**
2	Sat. Aug. 16	@Rams	4:00 pm	CBS2 LA / Estrella
3	Sat. Aug. 23	@49ers	5:30 pm	CBS2 LA / Estrella

REGULAR SEASON

WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	NETWORK
1	**FRI. SEP. 5**	**CHIEFS***	**5:00 pm**	**YOUTUBE**
2	Mon. Sep. 15	@Raiders	7:00 pm	ESPN
3	**SUN. SEP. 21**	**BRONCOS**	**1:05 pm**	**CBS**
4	Sun. Sep. 28	@Giants	10:00 am	CBS
5	**SUN. OCT. 5**	**COMMANDERS**	**1:25 pm**	**FOX**
6	Sun. Oct. 12	@Dolphins	10:00 am	CBS
7	**SUN. OCT. 19**	**COLTS**	**1:05 pm**	**CBS**
8	**THU. OCT. 23**	**VIKINGS**	**5:15 pm**	**PRIME VIDEO**
9	Sun. Nov. 2	@Titans	10:00 am	CBS
10	**SUN. NOV. 9**	**STEELERS**	**5:20 pm**	**NBC**
11	Sun. Nov. 16	@Jaguars	10:00 am	CBS
12		**BYE**		
13	**SUN. NOV. 30**	**RAIDERS**	**1:25 pm**	**CBS**
14	**MON. DEC. 8**	**EAGLES**	**5:15 pm**	**ESPN / ABC**
15	Sun. Dec. 14	@Chiefs	10:00 am	CBS
16	Sun. Dec. 21	@Cowboys	10:00 am	FOX
17	**TBD**	**TEXANS**	**TBD**	**TBD**
18	TBD	@Broncos	TBD	TBD

All times Pacific

**The Chargers will host the Kansas City Chiefs in São Paulo at Corinthians Arena*

CHARGERS *in the* COMMUNITY

LA WILDFIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS

- In the aftermath of the devastating wildfires that ravaged Los Angeles County in January 2025, the Chargers and Spanos family donated $1 million to assist the American Red Cross, Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation, Team Rubicon, Pasadena Humane, LA Animal Services, and LA County Animal Care & Control in the immediate response and long-term recovery efforts.
- Chargers fans who attended the Charge Up to Playoffs events across Southern California donated tens of thousands of essential items to assist victims and front-line workers. All items were distributed throughout Los Angeles to support fire relief efforts.
- Head Coach Jim Harbaugh met with LAFD first responders at their command center in the Pacific Palisades to express his support and gratitude for their ongoing efforts to contain the Palisades fire.
- Derwin James Jr. visited a Red Cross Emergency Shelter at the Pasadena Civic Center, where he served lunch and connected with community residents displaced by the fires.

Give a child the gift of nature and a lifelong sense of wonder.

One of the best things you can give your child or grandchild doesn't come from a store. It's time spent outdoors discovering the gifts of nature, right in their own backyard. Nature Explore resources give you fun tools and activities to give the children in your life a love of nature, lifelong learning skills, and an everlasting sense of wonder.

Go to **arborday.org** and check out Nature Explore. There, you can download a free Nature Explore Families Club kit and learn about other Nature Explore resources for connecting children with nature. Whether you live in the city, the country, or anywhere in between, go online to **arborday.org** and start seeing what a difference nature can make.

Arbor Day Foundation®

DIMENSIONS®
Educational Research Foundation

- In partnership with UCLA Health, the Chargers welcomed first responders, teachers, school administrators, and families affected by the L.A. wildfires to The Bolt for the Rally for LA: Reconnect, Refresh & Rediscover event. Denzel Perryman joined the fun for a book reading with children and a Zumba session with the families in attendance.

FIRE STATION VISITS

- After the fires were extinguished, Zion Johnson provided lunch to firefighters at Fire Station 31 in Pasadena and thanked them for all their work in the wake of the disaster.
- Chargers 2025 first-round draft pick, Omarion Hampton, visited Fire Station 69 in the Pacific Palisades during his first visit to L.A. and delivered food to the firefighters on duty.
- The Impact Fund brought Bolt Academy alumni to Fire Station 94 in Crenshaw to learn from active firefighters following a visit to the African American Firefighter Museum in Downtown Los Angeles. During the tour, students heard from former fire captains about the rich history of African American Firefighters in the city.

CHARGERS IMPACT FUND'S RALLY FOR LA: WILDLIFE RECOVERY FUND

The Chargers Impact Fund created the Rally for LA: Wildfire Recovery Fund to focus on the long-term recovery of Altadena and Pacific Palisades after the devastating widlfires. The fund supports two critical areas in the community: football programs and educational resources.

Football Programs — High school football programs are cornerstones of their communities, providing a sense of unity, family, discipline, and pride for young athletes. The Rally for LA: Wildfire Recovery Fund helps revive programs in Altadena and the Palisades by providing equipment and resources to student-athletes who were impacted.

- The Fund made a $50,000 donation to Palisades Charter High School football program and invited its athletes to The Bolt for a special workout with Ben Herbert, Chargers Executive Director of Player Performance.
- $50,000 was also donated to the John Muir High School football program. The team toured The Bolt, received new workout gear, gloves, bags, shoes, and cleats and met Chargers General Manager Joe Hortiz and Head Coach Jim Harbaugh.

Education & School Resources — Supporting teachers and students impacted by the fires is another crucial component of community restoration. With many schools facing shortages in essential supplies and technology, the Rally for LA Wildfire Recovery Fund helps provide the necessary tools to allow teachers to educate and helps students learn and grow.

- Over $16,000 in essential electronic equipment was donated to Pasadena Unified Schools, including Pasadena Rosebud Academy, Aveson Charter School, and Odyssey Charter School.
- Five truckloads of gently used furniture – including 40 tables, over 300 chairs, and 20 bookcases – were donated to Pasadena Unified School District schools affected by the Eaton fire.

WALTER PAYTON MAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEE – CAMERON DICKER

The Chargers were proud to nominate kicker Cameron Dicker as the team's Walter Payton Man of the Year for the 2024 season — one of the NFL's most prestigious honors recognizing excellence both on and off the field. Throughout the year, no player had a greater impact on team-led events than Dicker. Whether participating in breathwork with cancer patients, visiting hospitals, or supporting youth with disabilities, he was a consistent presence at nearly every community initiative the organization hosted.

Beyond organizational events and initiatives, Dicker also formed a relationship with the Friendship Foundation, a local nonprofit whose mission of transforming the lives of people with intellectual and development disabilities. Dicker could be found on his days off attending their monthly Friendship Walks and purchased a group of tickets in the Community Corner section so the young people could attend the game with their families and join Cameron on the field post-game for a meet and greet.

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS
IMPACT FUND

ABOUT THE CHARGERS IMPACT FUND

"Believe in yourself. There is nothing you can't do if you set your mind to it."

—Alex Spanos

Driven by love of family, gratitude for community, and a passion for giving back, Alex and Faye Spanos established the Chargers Impact Fund in 1995 to help people see the best in themselves and achieve their dreams.

Born into a blue-collar family of Greek immigrants, Alex began working in his father's bakery at age eight. The values of hard work and perseverance — paired with a courageous spirit and what would become trademark unwavering honesty — quickly formed the foundation that drove his success in business. As he grew into a titan of industry, eventually realizing his life-long dream of owning a professional football team, Alex remained convinced that his success was due to the support he received from his wife Faye, his family, and his community.

Alex and Faye's gratitude and optimism served as catalysts for what ultimately became a legacy of decades-long philanthropy. The more they gave back, the richer their lives grew — be it through the experiences they had, personal stories they learned, or relationships they nurtured.

Though Alex and Faye passed in 2018, their legacy of giving lives on through the work of the Chargers Impact Fund. Modeled after their belief that a solid family foundation and the ability to lean on each other are critical to future success, the Impact Fund brings fans, volunteers, players, and donors together to create supportive environments in which the next generation can thrive.

LA FOR EVERYONE

VISION

A welcoming and caring Los Angeles where everyone feels like part of a community and all things seem possible.

MISSION

We bring people together to empower youth, generate access, and create opportunity in under-resourced neighborhoods so today's dreams can become tomorrow's reality.

VALUES

Kindness	We believe in the power of kindness to cultivate a connected and compassionate Los Angeles.
Family	"We believe that we are all members of one family, whose common good depends on everyone's personal involvement" — Alex Spanos
Service	We partner with leaders on the frontlines of impacted communities. Our work supports these leading organizations.
Optimism	We are a bright spot for our community. We recognize the difficult issues many Angelenos are facing, and we inspire joy and happiness.

MY PAPI HAS
A MOTORCYCLE

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

We empower the next generation to achieve their dreams through education, mentorship, and sports-based youth development.

BOLT ACADEMY

The Bolt Academy program is a unique partnership of the Chargers Impact Fund, Inglewood Unified School District, and Brotherhood Crusade.

Selected juniors and seniors from Inglewood High Schools participate in a six-month after-school program to build leadership and career readiness skills. Those who successfully complete and graduate from the program get an opportunity to work for the Chargers on game day.

- In 2024, Bolt Academy became an accredited A-G class in Inglewood High Schools, becoming the first of its kind in the NFL.
- Since launching in 2021, 82 students have participated in the after school and career readiness program and received 480 classroom hours of instruction, 716 hours of on-the-job training, with $46,976.08 earned for the local Inglewood economy.

BOLTS BOOK CLUB

Studies have shown that students who fall behind in reading comprehension before the 3rd grade are likely to struggle academically later in life. The Impact Fund began the Bolts Book Club program in 2020 to help address this issue in Los Angeles, and in 2023, partnered with Scholastic and Rhymes with Reason to help create access for students to get free books and boost reading and vocabulary skills.

- To date, over 17,000 books have been donated and distributed to local schools, students, teachers, and Boys & Girls Clubs, with over 5,000 donations in 2024 alone. All books donated are given with the goal of assisting in getting new books into the hands of young people to foster a love of reading.
- 28,000 minutes of reading were completed by students who participated in the Bolts Book Club's summer reading program, ran in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Los Angeles.

COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

We engage fans, players, and partners to foster a sense of belonging through safe places to play and access to basic needs.

CHARGERS CHAMPIONS

For over two decades, Chargers Champions has provided San Diego and Imperial County schools with grants and resources totaling $6 million in funding to assist students, teachers, and communities. In 2024, five schools received grants for physical fitness, nutrition, and athletic programs.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Through the Impact Fund's Community Corner ticket program, Chargers players, including Justin Herbert, Derwin James Jr., Cameron Dicker, and more, sponsored over 500 tickets to benefit community and youth-focused nonprofit organizations to attend a home game in a special section of SoFi Stadium. Since 2017, Chargers players have purchased over 6,500 tickets in the Community Corner section to invite local nonprofit groups to home games. In addition to tickets, recipients receive concession vouchers and team promotional items to showcase their fandom.

BIKES FOR KIDS

During the holiday season, the Impact Fund celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Bikes for Kids bike giveaway by surprising all 400 students at McNair Elementary School in Compton with brand-new bikes, helmets and bike locks with the help of partners The Brady Hunter Foundation and Pechanga Resort Casino and special guests Chargers Legends Terry Crews, Marcellus Wiley, Mike Scifres, Antoine Cason, and Sean Culkin.

As part of the special celebration, 60 volunteers, including General Manager Joe Hortiz and Assistant General Manager Chad Alexander, participated in the annual bike build; building all 400 bikes in preparation for the giveaway event.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

MISSION STATEMENT

The LA Chargers contribute to a thriving, vibrant Southern California by creating access and opportunities that positively impact the lives of youth, animals, and our neighbors.

THRIVING NEIGHBORHOODS

We use our platform to create joyful and memorable experiences, provide opportunities to serve our thriving communities, and honor and recognize local leaders.

CRUCIAL CATCH

As part of the NFL's Crucial Catch campaign, the Chargers and Chargers Impact Fund continued to raise awareness for the importance of early detection in the fight against cancer while supporting breast cancer patients, caregivers, survivors, and thrivers. A month-long initiative, the team's Crucial Catch efforts are led by Susie Spanos, wife of Controlling Owner and Chairman Dean Spanos, and a breast cancer survivor herself. Susie knows firsthand the importance of early detection and continued to lead the team's efforts to ensure local men and women get screened for detectable cancers.

- Breast cancer survivors, thrivers, and caregivers from UCLA Health were invited to attend an hour-long breathwork session on the field at The Bolt. Participants had the opportunity to engage in mindfulness and relaxing breathwork exercises with Chargers kicker, Cameron Dicker, and wide receiver, Brenden Rice.
- During the annual Crucial Catch game, 40 breast cancer patients, survivors, thrivers, and caregivers from UCLA Health and the American Cancer Society were honored on the field during pregame and halftime. The group was flanked on the field by 100 members of the Zeta Tau Alpha, a national fraternity of women, whose philanthropy is breast cancer education and awareness. Prior to the halftime honor, Susie Spanos was joined by representatives from the American Cancer Society to present the organization with a $10,000 donation from the Chargers Impact Fund to assist in their critical mission of combating cancer through advocacy, research, and patient support.
- Nearly 100 families affected by cancer from Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation and Walk with Sally were invited to attend Boo at the Bolt!, the Chargers' annual Halloween event at the team practice facility. Cameron Dicker and Head Coach Jim Harbaugh were on hand to read to the children in attendance and spread Halloween cheer and candy to the families.

SALUTE TO SERVICE

Alex Spanos proudly served our country as a tail gunner in the United States Air Force from 1942 to 1946. The Chargers and the Chargers Impact Fund know that we owe a debt of gratitude to those who have borne the battle on our behalf, which is why the organization and the Spanos family have continued this legacy of commitment to our nation's troops, veterans, and their families.

- During mandatory minicamp, the Chargers travelled to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton to host team practice for hundreds of soldiers and their families. Prior to team practice, the Bolts hosted a free flag football clinic for children of active-duty military personnel. 150 youth attended the special camp, where they learned the fundamentals of flag football and enjoyed the field before the Chargers players arrived for practice.
- Five families from Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) were honored by the Chargers during Salute to Service month and the annual game. For six years, the Chargers have partnered with TAPS, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to providing care and resources to the families of America's fallen heroes, to honor families and remember their loved ones before and during the annual Salute to Service game.

- Wide receiver Ladd McConkey, defensive back Ja'Sir Taylor, and Safety Kendall Williamson were on hand for the Veterans Advocacy Group of America (VAGA) eighth annual Thanksgiving Appreciation dinner. McConkey, Taylor, and Williamson were joined by Chargers front office staff to help distribute over 150 Thanksgiving meals to the military veterans and their families.
- The Chargers partnered with Verizon and American Airlines to renovate the technology center and outdoor spaces at the U.S. VETS housing center in Long Beach. Denzel Perryman, Trey Pipkins III, and Chargers Legend Larry English took part in the renovation and opening of the refurbished spaces of the Bridge Housing Women's (BHW) Program. The program serves the unique needs of women transitioning out of homelessness and empowers veteran women on their journey to independence.
- The Chargers hosted the first annual Battle of the Bases Flag Football Tournament for members of local military bases at the team's training facility. In a spirited day of friendly competition, teams representing the Marines from Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, the Air Force from Edwards Air Force Base, and the Coast Guard clashed in an exciting display of camaraderie, athleticism, and honor. All the participating teams were invited to the Chargers' annual Salute to Service game in thanks for their service and participation in the tournament.

INSPIRE CHANGE CHANGEMAKER

Snoop Youth Football League's Nykauni Tademy was honored as the Chargers' 2025 Inspire Change Changemaker nominee. Tademy, a founding member of Snoop Dogg's nonprofit Youth Football League for inner-city youth, was honored for her work with Snoop Special Stars and her focus on mental health. For over 20 years, Tademy has served thousands of families and helped create youth access to critical after-school programming and safe spaces that enable growth on and off the field.

MAKE-A-WISH

The Chargers teamed up with the Make-A-Wish Foundation during the 2024 season to host three young fans with critical illnesses and their families at a team practice and game. Quarterback Justin Herbert, Head Coach Jim Harbaugh, and General Manager Joe Hortiz personally welcomed the families after practice and helped make for an unforgettable experience.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The Chargers prepare youth to succeed in life by administering and supporting programs focused on character development, career exploration, and education.

CAREER PATHWAYS

Nearly 100 youth attended a career panel in honor of Latino Heritage Month and were invited to hear from Chargers employees on the unique careers and pathways available in the sports industry.

TRAINING CAMP WATER TENT

The Bolts partnered with the Friendship Foundation to host local youth from the nonprofit organization to raise funds for the organization at Training Camp. The Friendship Foundation supports families and children or young people with special needs and has been supporting the South Bay for over 17 years. The youth invited to fundraise also got the opportunity to participate in a high-five tunnel at the start of one practice and meet Head Coach Jim Harbaugh.

ANIMAL WELFARE

Because pets are an important contribution to a thriving family unit, we connect fans and community members to organizations and services to improve their quality of life. Since 2020, the Bolts have strategically partnered with local shelters, rescues, and nonprofits to raise awareness for animal welfare causes and initiatives. Through these partnerships, the Chargers have hosted and supported pet adoptions, pet wellness events, and spay and neuter clinics.

PET ADOPTION

Over 250 animals were adopted during Chargers-sponsored pet adoption events throughout the year. Since 2020, over 700 animals have found forever homes after being spotlighted during Chargers-sponsored pet adoption events.

CHARGERS PUP

Since 2020, the Chargers have partnered with local nonprofits to spotlight a service dog in training. Through the Chargers Pup program, fans follow the journey of a dog preparing to become a life-changing companion for a person with disabilities. The initiative not only highlights the transformative role of service animals but also celebrates the independence and support they provide to their humans. Whether placed in a police station as a facility dog or matched with a military veteran, each Chargers Pup is making a meaningful impact in the community. In 2024, the Bolts welcomed Storm to the Chargers Pup family. Rescued by Paws for Life, Storm will be placed with a military veteran during the summer of 2025.

MOST VALUABLE PUP

Over 60 shelter animals have been featured as the Chargers' Most Valuable Pups of the Game (MVP's) since 2022. The program highlights local adoptable animals and raises awareness for the important work of shelters and rescues throughout Southern California at all home games.

FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide safe, inclusive, and educational opportunities for athletes to learn and develop their skills in football, while fostering a sense of family and leadership that extends beyond the field.

VALUES

Family	We believe in bringing people together to create a family-like environment that fosters relations and a sense of community among our players, coaches, and families.
Safety	We prioritize the safety and well-being of our athletes, providing the necessary resources and training to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all.
Inclusion	We welcome and celebrate diversity, creating a culture of inclusivity that values and respects all individuals.
Leadership	We strive to develop strong leaders both on and off the field, instilling values of integrity, accountability, excellence, and teamwork.
Fun	We incorporate games and competition in our programming that teach the game of football through fun and creative ways. We make football accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

RINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

ALL-STAR TACKLE

Nearly 200 athletes from high schools in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties participated in the annual LA City Gridiron Classic, Alex Spanos Classic, and OC All-Star Classic high school all-star games. The support of three high school all-star games continued the Chargers' long-standing support of matchups between the best players in Southern California high school football.

NIKE 11-ON

1,400 athletes from 30 local high school football and girls flag programs participated in the Chargers' annual Nike 11-On. The annual high school competition focuses on building transferable life skills while also encouraging team play over individual recognition. The two-day camp was held at the Chargers' training facilities, where the athletes participated in 7-on-7 drills, team-building exercises, and heard from Chargers coaches and players.

JR. CHARGERS TRAINING CAMPS

Over 1,500 youth participated in Jr. Chargers Play60 camps organized throughout the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego to promote youth health and wellness.

MENTAL HEALTH

100 athletes and coaches from the Snoop Youth Football League participated in a mental health event hosted in the Chargers locker room at SoFi Stadium. Prior to dinner, players, coaches, and their guests participated in a leadership workshop and panel discussion with Chargers player and former Snoop Youth Football League athlete, Daiyan Henley, and Chargers Director of Player Development, Arthur Hightower.

EXPERIENCES

YOUTH FOOTBALL TRADITION

100 local youth flag and tackle football players participated in the Chargers' Youth Football Traditional presented by Ticketmaster during home games at SoFi Stadium. This unique game day experience highlights young athletes and gives them the opportunity to run out of the tunnel with the team before the game kicks off.

NFL NETWORK VISITS

Over 250 athletes and coaches from 12 local youth flag and tackle programs appeared on NFL Network's Gameday Morning and participated in segments with the celebrity hosts. This partnership between the NFL, Chargers, and NFL Network creates a platform to highlight local Southern California youth football programs and engage them with NFL Legends and talent before Chargers home games.

YOUTH PLAYER WALKOUT

45 youth tackle and flag athletes were invited to join the team at the start of Training Camp and run out with players prior to practice.

SUPPORT

COACH OF THE WEEK

66 coaches from Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties were recognized as the Chargers Coach of the Week, presented by Toyota, during the high school football season. Each coach honored was selected by a fan vote and received a $1,000 from the Chargers and Chargers Impact Fund to go towards their team's football program.

DONATIONS

The team partnered with Good Sports and the NFL Foundation to sponsor the helmet and shoulder pad reconditioning for over 200 young athletes from the Inglewood Chargers and Crenshaw Cougars youth tackle football teams.

The Bolts donated $20,000 to the El Segundo High School Football team to assist in purchasing new helmets and shoulder pads. The players, coaches, and families were invited to Training Camp and surprised with the news by Head Coach Jim Harbaugh and General Manager Joe Hortiz.

150 Girls Flag start-up kits were donated in 2024.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

During the 2024 high school football season, the Chargers supported two kickoff high school games – including one of the first girls flag football games ever played at SoFi Stadium.

FLAG FOOTBALL

SNOOP & HOUSH

Over 2,000 youth participated in the second year of the Snoop & Housh Flag Football League. The Chargers and Chargers Impact Fund partnered with Southern California natives Snoop Dogg and NFL legend T.J. Houshmandzadeh to form the inclusive league. With two sites in Los Angeles, the league began with the goal of giving youth from under-served communities access and the opportunity to build life skills of teamwork, discipline, and hard work both on and off the football field.

NFL FLAG REGIONAL

Over 700 athletes from 72 teams across California participated in the Chargers-supported Flag Regional. The winning teams from each age group earned the opportunity to represent the Chargers at the 2024 NFL Flag Championships at the Pro Bowl Games.

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE

60 teams and over 1,500 athletes participated in the San Diego Unified School District Middle School flag program began in partnership with the Chargers.

GIRLS FLAG

CONQUER CHARGERS GIRLS FLAG TEAM

The Conquer Chargers Girls Flag team, based in Southern California and sponsored by the Chargers, is comprised of elite talent between the ages of nine and 17. In 2024, the program expanded to 16 teams and 190 girls participating across four branches.

CHARGERS INVITATIONAL

Over 400 girls from Southern California High School Football flag teams participated in an opening weekend tournament to celebrate the inaugural season of girls flag football as a sanctioned CIF sport.

From the
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LA VS. OC GIRLS FLAG ALL-STAR GAME

70 of the top-performing female flag football players from high schools across Orange County and LA were selected to participate in the second annual Girls Flag All-Star Game, presented by Oakley and hosted by the Chargers at SoFi Stadium. Prior to the game, all 70 participating athletes and their families were invited to NFL Network to be featured on NFL Gameday Kickoff.

BOLTS ON THE BEACH

250 girls flag football players representing 24 of the top high school flag programs in Southern California participated in the Chargers' inaugural Bolts on the Beach Tournament.

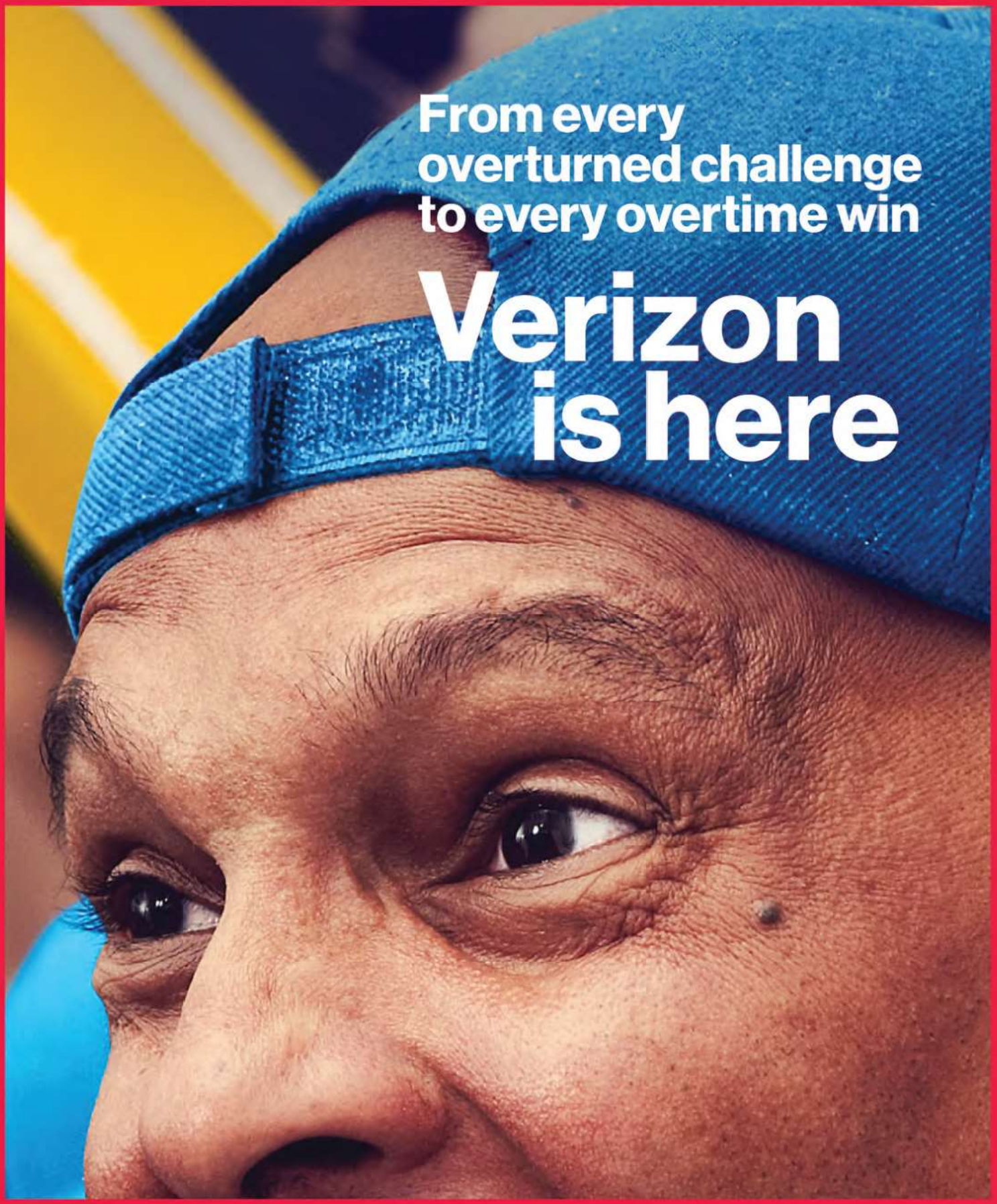
CHARGERS IN THE COMMUNITY
BOLTS ON THE BEACH

OFFICIAL LA CHARGERS

PRO SHOP

A Fanatics Experience

MAKE SURE YOU'RE GAMEDAY READY AND FULLY PREPARED TO BOLT UP!


From every
overturned challenge
to every overtime win
Verizon
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